

developed countries. The total pledge of over \$24 million to the fourth period of the programme is the largest ever received and comes from the greatest number of countries ever to participate. Moreover, work has been begun and is still continuing in the various technical assistance administering bodies and in the Council which should greatly improve and strengthen the administrative and financial procedure of the programme. Second is the declaration originally proposed by the United States at the sixteenth session of ECOSOC and adopted by the eighth session of the General Assembly on a unanimous vote, that governments stand ready, when sufficient progress has been made in internationally-supervised world-wide disarmament, to ask their peoples to devote a portion of the savings to an international fund for economic development within the framework of the United Nations. Though the declaration is not a commitment to the particular plan which has become known as the Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development, and though it is necessarily provisional, in the present state of international relations, it is an acceptance in principle of the obligation of all countries to assist directly in raising standards of living throughout the world and as such is a significant step towards one of the fundamental objectives of the Charter.

In social matters, this year saw the completion by the Commission on Human Rights of its work on the two draft Covenants. But a good many difficulties still lie ahead. The content of the Covenants is by no means universally satisfactory, and the problem of measures of implementation clauses, particularly as they relate to federal states, is still not finally solved. Moreover, the United States has indicated that it is not at present prepared to accept the Covenants and has proposed an alternative "Human Rights Action Programme" which has yet to be considered by the Council.

Finally, it should be mentioned that a review is underway of the activities of the Economic and Social Council and its Commissions, and that studies in co-ordination and organization by the Secretary-General and others will, it is to be hoped, cut down on overlapping and reduce the volume of technical work which at the present time overloads the Secretariat.

Economic Questions

Economic Development of Under-Developed Countries

Canada's interest in the economic development of the economically less developed countries of the world has been demonstrated in continued active participation in programmes of assistance both within and outside the United Nations,¹ and also in the careful consideration that has been given to proposals for additional means of furthering development discussed under United Nations auspices.

At the Fourth Technical Assistance Conference in November 1953, the Canadian Representative announced that the Canadian

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1952-53*, pp. 30-33.