

IV SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

Introduction

The Specialized Agencies are bodies, set up by inter-governmental agreements, which were brought under the aegis of the United Nations at the time of its establishment, or have been created by it since to carry out the intentions of Chapter IX of the Charter. Chapter IX provides, in part, that member states shall work for the "conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations," by undertaking to promote "higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development; solution of international economic, social, health and related problems; and international cultural and educational co-operation".

The ratification by Japan, on March 17, 1958, of the Convention on the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) brought that Specialized Agency into being, increasing the number of Specialized Agencies to twelve. Another Agency has been proposed, the International Trade Organization (ITO), but it has not yet come existence, since its charter has not been ratified by the required number of countries.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), established in 1957, is not a Specialized Agency; it has, however, entered into an agreement with the United Nations. Its relationship to the United Nations is that of an autonomous international organization under United Nations' aegis: in practice its position is comparable to that of the Specialized Agencies.

Canada is a member of all the Specialized Agencies and of IAEA. It has tried to encourage and develop their programmes and has sought to promote the co-ordination of those programmes. The opportunities for useful and desirable work by the agencies are unlimited but, as vast funds are not available, Canada has taken the position that programmes should be planned on a system of priorities in order to achieve the most effective use of available resources and to stimulate national efforts.

To avoid overlapping of activities and to promote co-ordination, the Economic and Social Council has established the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination which reports regularly at Council sessions on inter-agency co-operation at all levels. As its name indicates the Committee studies administrative and personnel problems common to the Specialized Agencies. The Committee also considers planned projects on problems of special urgency to be undertaken jointly by several agencies.

International Labour Organization

The International Labour Organization (ILO) was established in 1919 at the Paris Peace Conference. Originally associated with the League of Nations, it became in 1946 a Specialized Agency of the United Nations. Its purpose is to promote social justice by improving working and living conditions in all parts of the world through international agreements, national legislative action and collective bargaining, thus providing a solid basis for universal lasting peace and prosperity.