

the fourteenth session of the General Assembly. Yugoslavia took the lead in introducing a resolution on this subject which was eventually co-sponsored by 47 other delegations. The resolution called on member states to reappraise their position with respect to support for the early establishment of a United Nations Capital Development Fund, asked the Secretary-General to examine ways and means of making progress towards the early establishment of such a fund and invited the Secretary-General to report on the matter to the 30th session of ECOSOC and the fifteenth session of the General Assembly. While this resolution was under discussion in the Second Committee during the fourteenth session, the Executive-Directors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development were preparing articles of agreement for an International Development Association which would make additional capital available to under-developed¹ countries. The proposed I.D.A. figured also in the debate on economic development of under-developed countries at the General Assembly.

The Canadian Delegation took the position at the fourteenth session of the General Assembly that action should be deferred on any other new capital assistance organization until there has been sufficient experience with the operation of the I.D.A. to judge its effectiveness and to determine whether any additional arrangements are needed. The Canadian Representative in the Second Committee pointed out that the major potential contributors were evidently unwilling to support the early establishment of a SUNFED type of fund but that they appeared to be prepared to contribute to I.D.A., which therefore offered concrete prospects. Canada abstained on the Yugoslav resolution referred to above. The United States and the United Kingdom, among other member states, also declined to support the resolution, which was nevertheless passed by a large majority. Canada voted in favour of a resolution originated by the Greek Delegation which welcomed the decision in principle of the Governors of the International Bank to establish an International Development Association and expressed the hope that there would be a close working relationship between the I.D.A. and the United Nations.

Technical Assistance

The purpose of technical assistance is to enable the under-developed areas of the world to benefit from the experience of the technologically more advanced countries by making available to them on request the knowledge and practical help which they need to achieve higher levels of productivity and better standards of living.

Shortly after the United Nations was established, the organization embarked upon a programme of technical assistance in response to a general realization that the majority of the people of the world, with a standard of living barely adequate for survival, were existing in relatively static or insufficiently expanding economies while the economies of the developed countries were expanding at an accelerating rate. These processes were proceeding independently and it was evident that the technical skills of the developed countries would be of little benefit to the under-developed areas unless intensive and co-ordinated efforts were made to have them brought to bear on the areas of greatest need.

To help meet this critical problem the General Assembly set up machinery within the Secretariat to provide technical assistance directly to under-developed countries and to co-ordinate the technical assistance programmes of the Specialized Agencies in their various fields of activity. In

¹ See Chapter IV, Specialized Agencies, for further details on the proposed International Development Association.