

war preparations of the industrialized countries of the West, particularly the United States. They maintained that capitalist groups in the United States and other countries were extracting enormous profits from rearmament at the expense of the standard of living of the masses in advanced as well as in under-developed countries. All this was contrasted with the alleged expansion of production for peaceful purposes in their own countries. It was apparent that their tactics were to create as much dissension as possible among the industrialized countries outside the Soviet bloc and between these countries and the under-developed areas of the world.

Discounting the political content of the debates on the world economic situation, there remained a useful core of discussion on the real economic problems facing the countries of the world. Canada took part in all these debates and explained the policies which had been followed in Canada to expand production and control inflation and to meet other special difficulties. The debates also provided an opportunity for Canada to emphasize the importance it attaches to the elimination of trade restrictions and other practices militating against economic stability and the expansion of world trade.

Land, Productivity and Non-Agricultural Resources

During 1951 and the first half of 1952 the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly considered a variety of special questions on the development and utilization of the world's natural resources. These included land reform, productivity, the conservation and utilization of non-agricultural resources, and the control and use of water resources.

Land Reform

A General Assembly Resolution of 1950 had called for the preparation of a report on defects in agrarian structure as they related to the process of economic development. The report was considered by the thirteenth session of ECOSOC and the sixth session of the General Assembly in 1951. It described the main features of the agricultural systems in under-developed countries and included studies of land tenure, agricultural indebtedness, taxation policies, research and experimental stations, marketing co-operatives, credit facilities and educational and technical services. The report made a number of recommendations on the various problems under consideration.

The debates on the report showed general agreement on a number of important principles: first, that land reform was fundamental to an effective programme of economic development in under-developed countries; second, that the main responsibility for carrying out land reform must rest with the countries concerned; and, third — although this was disputed by the Soviet bloc representatives —, that land reform should be carried out, wherever possible, within the framework of existing political and social institutions. Resolutions were adopted by the Council and the Assembly recommending that governments take action in respect of security of