

A short description of the four special programmes for which the United Nations solicits voluntary contributions is given below, together with a statement of Canadian contributions to these programmes.

#### UNICEF

The United Nations Children's Fund was created by the General Assembly in December 1946 to conduct emergency relief activities for the special benefit of children and adolescents of countries which were the victims of aggression, for children and adolescents in countries which had been receiving relief from the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and for child health purposes generally. In 1953 the General Assembly decided to continue the Fund for an indefinite period. The emphasis in its operations has in consequence shifted to long-range projects such as the building up of children's health and welfare services, child feeding, and related undertakings. The Fund is at present conducting operations in 95 countries and territories, mainly in under-developed countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. Last year there were 283 UNICEF-aided projects, a large proportion of which were concerned with the eradication of malaria, the control of yaws and tuberculosis, and similar basic health programmes.

Since its establishment, contributions have been given to UNICEF on a voluntary basis by governments and individuals in 118 countries and territories (countries receiving aid are required to equal or better the funds allocated to them). As of December 31, 1955 the total contributions and pledges had amounted to about \$185,000,000, of which \$170,000,000 constituted governmental contributions. The annual budget has been continually expanding and UNICEF officials hope to raise a sum in the neighbourhood of \$20,000,000 for operations during 1957.

Canada has contributed substantially to UNICEF since its inception, its initial contribution, made in 1947, being \$5,200,000. The total donated to the Fund by the Canadian Government will have reached \$10,675,000 by the end of 1957; this amount includes the \$650,000 pledged, subject to Parliamentary approval for 1957. In addition to these governmental contributions there have been private contributions resulting from organized campaigns in Canada and totalling about \$1,500,000.

#### UNRWA

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East was established by the General Assembly in December 1949 to provide for the relief and resettlement of about 950,000 refugees left homeless by the hostilities in Palestine in 1948. The Agency was charged with the task of co-operating with local governments in direct relief and works programmes in the Middle East, and of consulting with those governments on measures to be taken until such time as international assistance for relief and works programmes would no longer be available or until such time as the refugees would be able to exercise the choice between repatriation and compensation offered to them by resolutions of the General Assembly.

Political considerations have impeded the various plans for solving the Palestine refugee problem. In particular, the refugees have been reluctant to take any action leading to resettlement in countries in the area other than Israel since they feel this might prejudice their position with regard to repatriation