

for instance, has taken the position that any upward movement in its contributions to ICAO, FAO and ILO should be gradual and directly related to a downward revision in its contributions to the United Nations, WHO and UNESCO. As a result, the United States shares in 1951 were increased over 1950 in ICAO and ILO but reduced in the United Nations, UNESCO and WHO. In FAO, the United States percentage remained unchanged. At the same time, the Canadian contribution has been lowered in ICAO from 4.80 per cent to 4.40 per cent and in FAO from 4.50 per cent to 4.11 per cent, while remaining at 3.17 per cent in WHO. It has been raised slightly in the other organizations, mainly as a result of the growth of the Canadian national income.

For purposes of assessment, members of UPU and ITU are divided into broad groups, each representing a fixed number of units. Upon joining the organization, members decide the contributor group to which they wish to belong. Under this system, Canada will pay in 1951 twenty-five units each to the UPU and the ITU out of totals of 921 and 762 units respectively.

Collection of Contributions

For the most part, member governments have discharged their financial obligations to the United Nations promptly. By October 1950 they had paid 100 per cent of their assessment for the period to 1949, 96.41 per cent of their 1949 assessment, and almost 78 per cent of their 1950 assessment. Their record in the Specialized Agencies has not always been as satisfactory. In FAO, WHO, UNESCO and ICAO, arrears in contributions have grown rapidly, with some member states in default two or more years and by amounts which represent a substantial proportion of the total anticipated revenues of these organizations.

This situation can be attributed to a variety of circumstances. A major factor for all the Agencies (and latterly also for the United Nations) has been the inability of the Government of Nationalist China to meet its financial commitments. Certain other member states have simply been lax in remitting their contributions. In the case of WHO, a special contributing factor has been the refusal of this organization, for constitutional and other reasons, to accept the withdrawal of the U.S.S.R. and five other Cominform states. Although these countries formally withdrew from WHO in 1949 and have paid no contributions since that time, they are still included in the scale of assessments. As a result the organization faces a permanent deficit in its income.

To prevent arrears from reaching dangerous proportions, the constitutions of the United Nations and the Agencies provide that, under certain conditions, voting rights and certain other privileges may be suspended where members have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the organization. In application of this provision, ICAO in 1950 suspended the voting rights of six of its members pending settlement of their arrears. During the year, UNESCO and ICAO also took steps to strengthen the constitutional provision for the "suspension of vote".