

More than 725 Canadian experts had served or were serving in various under-developed countries as of December 31, 1958. About 600 of these were sponsored by the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies. At any one time there are about 150 Canadian experts serving under various technical assistance programmes, close to 100 of whom are in the service of the United Nations.

Regional Economic Commissions

There are now four Regional Economic Commissions of the United Nations; the fourth, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) was established in 1958 with headquarters at Addis Ababa. The first session of ECA is expected to take place in early January, 1959. The other three Commissions are the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) with headquarters in Geneva, the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) with headquarters in Santiago, and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) whose headquarters is in Bangkok. The four Commissions report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, and their Secretariats constitute an integral part of the United Nations Secretariat.

Although Canada is not a member of any of the Regional Economic Commissions, Canadian Representatives have been regularly sent as observers to many ECE meetings and have, less frequently, attended a number of ECLA and ECAFE meetings.

ECA was established following a resolution of the twelfth session of the General Assembly. The members of the Commission are Belgium, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Guinea, Italy, Liberia, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom, the United States and the U.S.S.R. Membership in the Commission is open to any state in Africa that might later become a member of the United Nations. States which cease to have any territorial responsibility in Africa will withdraw from the Commission.

The Economic Commission for Europe held its thirteenth annual session in April, 1958 and reviewed the work of its various technical committees. Canada has followed the activities of ECE with considerable interest since its inception. As the thirty members of the Commission include countries from Western and Eastern Europe, the annual sessions provide regular opportunities to study and discuss economic relations between these two areas. This year the Commission was concerned mostly with energy and trade problems.

ECAFE held its fourteenth session in Kuala Lumpur from March 3-15, 1958. The participation of Iran as the 24th member of the Commission was approved at the 26th session of the Economic and Social Council. There are in addition three Associate Members.

There was no plenary session of ECLA in 1958. The Commission's Committee of the Whole met in Santiago on April 7-8, however, and reviewed the progress of the Latin American regional market programme, the economic integration of Central America and United Nations technical assistance in Latin America. The Committee of the Whole met again on October 1 in an extraordinary session to consider financial arrangements for the construction of the headquarters building in Santiago.