

are confronted with difficulties of a constitutional or administrative nature, it is not possible for them to meet their assessments until midway or later in the fiscal year of the United Nations.

United Nations budgets, despite all efforts to prevent it, have shown a gradual increase over the years; yet a more marked increase appears in the budgets of most of the Specialized Agencies. These amounted to a total of approximately \$38 million in 1955, of \$41 million in 1956, and of \$45 million in 1957<sup>1</sup>.

### Scale of Assessments

On December 14, 1955 16 new members were admitted to the United Nations, increasing the total membership from 60 to 76 countries. Since the scale of assessments for 1956 had by then been drawn up on the basis of 60 members, the Committee on Contributions was instructed to revise the scale making it retroactive to 1956, and to report on its proposals to the eleventh session. The new scale, adopted by the General Assembly on December 21, 1956, reduced Canada's contribution rate to the United Nations budget from 3.63 per cent to 3.15 per cent. Between November 12, 1956 and March 8, 1957 five more new members were admitted to United Nations membership and these additional members will require another adjustment in the scale of assessments, but this adjustment is unlikely to affect Canada's present rate of assessment which is 3.15 per cent of the United Nations budget.

In the early years of the United Nations the General Assembly recognized in principle that "in normal times no member should contribute more than one-third of the ordinary expenses of the United Nations for any one year", and that "in normal times the per capita contribution of any member should not exceed the per capita contribution of the member which bears the highest assessment". The assessment of the United States was eventually reduced to 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  per cent to conform to the first principle referred to above, which left Canada and two other member countries paying at a higher per capita rate than the United States. The scale adopted on December 21, 1956, which set the rate for Canada at 3.15 per cent gave full effect, for the first time, to the per capita principle as far as Canada is concerned. It is for this reason that the expected adjustments in the scale of assessments because of the admission of five more members during the eleventh session, will not further reduce Canada's rate.

### Extra-Budgetary Funds

A Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds has been re-established each year since 1951 by resolution of the General Assembly. The membership of this Committee, as appointed near the close of the tenth session to serve until the close of the eleventh session, consisted of representatives from the following nine countries: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, France, Lebanon, Pakistan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

<sup>1</sup>See Appendix IV.