

many more have completed similar assignments and returned to Canada. A number of doctors and other scientific personnel have also worked on WHO field projects.

Canada's membership in WHO does not mean that Canada gives much and gains nothing in return. WHO's programme is built around the principle that no country is without its health problems. While Canada is not faced with the serious health problems common to many of the less well developed areas of the world, problems such as malaria, yaws, tuberculosis, cholera, environmental sanitation and malnutrition, nevertheless there are other important fields where better health can be promoted in Canada. To mention only a few in which Canada has an increasing concern are accident prevention, rehabilitation of the physically disabled, prevention of mental illness, cancer and heart diseases. Canadian health planners and administrators are benefiting from the study of measures adopted by other countries and from WHO expert committee reports, monographs and technical bulletins on these subjects. Along with all countries, Canada benefits from WHO's epidemiological and statistical analysis of disease trends, and from the Organization's international sanitary regulations as well as its standards for biological and pharmaceutical products.

### Food and Agriculture Organization

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has, since 1945<sup>1</sup>, built up a Secretariat active in technical fields such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, nutrition and economics. An economic intelligence service is meeting the need for better information on production, consumption, marketing and prices. An intensive effort is being made to try to solve the physical problems of increasing production and consumption. The Organization began in 1945 with 42 members (including Canada), and now has a membership of 72 countries.

Since FAO started administering the agricultural phases of the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in 1951, the Organization has sent experts of 45 nationalities to work on nearly 1,300 assignments in 50 countries. The thousandth expert engaged by FAO left for Iran in mid-September 1955. During 1955 some 500 experts were in the field, many of them undertaking their second and third assignments. Some 50 Canadian experts have been on technical assistance assignments since 1951, and during 1955 about 22 were in the field.

In addition to its regular activities, FAO, and particularly its Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), has given much attention during the past 18 months to questions of disposal of surplus agricultural products. Consideration has been given to: (1) promotion of suitable methods of disposal on special terms for specified purposes, and particularly in aid of economic development, supplementary welfare distribution schemes, and emergency relief; (2) formulation of principles and guiding lines to be observed in surplus disposal programmes and transactions; and (3) organization of field missions to investigate the absorption possibilities of potential recipient countries.

Principles to be applied to surplus disposal were formulated by the CCP and endorsed by the Council of FAO; in brief, they envisaged: increasing consumption rather than restricting supplies; disposing of excess stock in an orderly manner so as to prevent sharp drops in prices; and avoiding harmful interference to normal patterns of production and trade. These were formally accepted by 37 FAO member nations and no FAO member notified the Organization's Director-General of its dissent or of any reservations. Canada

<sup>1</sup>See *Canada and the United Nations 1953-54*, pp. 72-75.