

from the same Royal Commission, the Government of Canada has also established in 1952 a system of scholarships and fellowships for our most brilliant scholars and students. The first Canadians to benefit from these scholarships have already started to arrive in France and Holland. It is only fair to add that the Provincial Governments have been particularly generous in 1951 and 1952 in the field of fellowships and scholarships, and that they have extended by a great number the scholarships available from their Departments of Education. The Provincial Governments have also continued to give financial encouragement to our voluntary associations concerned with the progress of our national culture. Finally, I cannot find a better occasion than this short speech to pay a last homage to the Canadian Council for Reconstruction through UNESCO which wound up its activities in the field of education and relief in 1951. The devotion of this organization to the measures initiated by UNESCO in this field was supported by the Canadian public in a most generous fashion.

Our general approach to the programme and budget for 1953 and 1954 is substantially the same as last year. We are gratified that, since the fifth session of the General Conference in Florence, good progress has been made in defining with greater precision and realism the most appropriate fields of endeavour from which the Organization may reasonably expect tangible results. We are pleased to have heard from the Director-General this morning that much will continue to be done in that direction. We believe that in attaching a clear conception of the relative degree of priority and urgency to its various projects, UNESCO may rely on an ever increasing support from the public. This support is essential to the achievement of its high purposes and of future progress. For this reason, the Canadian Government welcomes the United States' suggestion that the present Conference should pay particular attention to the question of priorities and hopes that discussion on this subject will lead to some positive decision in furtherance of the best interests of the Organization.

In more purely financial terms, my Government hopes that the General Conference will aim at stabilizing the budgets for 1953 and 1954 at the 1952 level. To achieve this it will be necessary to concentrate available resources on the most urgent and productive fields of endeavour. My Government recognises the serious difficulties which the Organization is facing as a result of the special circumstances in which a few members find themselves, and over which they or the Organization may not have any direct control. It is prepared to examine each case on its particular merits.

Canada has been one of the oldest members of UNESCO and by its various contributions to it can be rightly considered as one of its staunchest supporters. On specific issues, no doubt critical comments have been made from time to time in the past by Canadian Delegations. I believe, however, it can be said that these comments have been motivated not by a negative or destructive spirit, but rather by the genuine desire to make of UNESCO as efficient and serviceable an instrument as possible. I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that my Government views UNESCO with continued confidence and lends it its sincere support. It is the earnest wish of my Delegation that as a result of the work of this Conference,