

endorsed by the General Assembly in November 1949, and a Technical Assistance Conference, meeting at Lake Success in June 1950, laid the basis for an initial 18-month period of operation ending December 31, 1951. Contributing countries pledged more than \$20 million for this initial period.

Canada pledged \$850,000 for the first 18 months of the Expanded Programme. At the same time, the Technical Co-operation Programme of the Colombo Plan, designed to give technical assistance to the countries of South and Southeast Asia, was being launched by the countries of the Commonwealth. To the first year's operation of this programme — which the Canadian Government regarded as supplementary to technical assistance in this area under the auspices of the United Nations — Canada contributed \$400,000.

Under the Expanded Programme, the Specialized Agencies and a new Technical Assistance Administration set up by the United Nations itself were to co-ordinate their assistance to under-developed countries under the general supervision of a Technical Assistance Board made up of representatives of these agencies and under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General or his representative. They were, wherever possible, to extend help on request in such varied fields as public administration, agriculture, health, education, fisheries, vocational training and social welfare. The methods to be employed were equally varied, including: fellowship programmes for the training abroad of technicians and students from under-developed countries; advisory surveys in those countries by outside experts or missions; assistance to governments in obtaining technical personnel, and in the dissemination of technical information; and the organization of seminars on special problems of economic development.

The contributions to the Expanded Programme went into a special account, administered by the Secretary-General, from which allocations were made to the Technical Assistance Administration of the United Nations and to the Specialized Agencies for their parts in the Programme. The first \$10 million and 70 per cent of the second \$10 million were allocated automatically to the participating agencies on a percentage basis with by far the largest percentages, 29 per cent, 23 per cent, and 22 per cent, to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Technical Assistance Administration and the World Health Organization respectively.

The thirteenth session of ECOSOC in the summer of 1951 provided the first opportunity for a review and assessment of activities under the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme during its initial period of operation. The dimensions of the Expanded Programme were such as to augment by 50 per cent or more the regular budgets of some of the Specialized Agencies. It was inevitable that a programme of this magnitude should give rise to administrative and operational difficulties which could not be overcome immediately. One of the chief difficulties was that the under-developed countries did not make applications for technical assistance which might have been made available. Even isolated requests were fewer than had been expected, and there was little sign of the planned and integrated programmes which had been hoped for. This difficulty appeared to arise from the uncertainty of the under-developed coun-