

nounced that Canada was prepared, subject to Parliamentary appropriation, to contribute \$1,800,000 to the Expanded Programme in 1956. This represents an increase of \$300,000 over the 1955 contribution and brings the total Canadian contribution since 1950 to \$7,200,000. As of September 30, 1955 contributions had reached a total of \$113,216,600. At this November 1955 Conference 61 countries announced pledges totalling \$28,031,536. These pledges represent an increase over those of earlier years. In 1954, 72 countries pledged \$25.3 million, and in 1955 (as of September 30) 70 countries had contributed a total of \$27.9 million. Those participating in the 1955 Conference included three countries pledging for the first time, and 26 countries increased their pledges over the amounts for previous years. Twelve countries which had participated in the past were unable to announce at the Conference the amount of their pledges for 1956 because of administrative or legislative delays.

At the twentieth session of ECOSOC there was an awareness not only of the need for substantial funds in this field but also of the need to know in advance what money would be available for some period ahead. Uncertainty about the amounts of money likely to be available in the future and delays in the payment of some current contributions had been among the factors responsible for a slight reduction in the assistance provided in 1954 despite an increase in the level of contributions; at the November Conference several members announced that their governments were undertaking commitments for future years. As an expression of Canada's continuing support and in an endeavour to have projects planned on a long-term basis, the Canadian Representative said that, subject to annual Parliamentary appropriations, support of the same general order of magnitude as at present could be expected from Canada in 1957 and 1958.

The Secretary-General submitted a report on the questions raised by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Satisfaction was expressed by the Canadian Representative at the advance made in reducing administrative costs. The hope expressed by the Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board that the goal recommended by the Advisory Committee concerning indirect and administrative costs would be achieved was also noted at the November Conference since it was recognized that any reduction in these costs would make more funds available for direct assistance. Stress was laid on the need for long-term planning and efficient use of funds, but it was agreed that on the whole progress was being made.

Canada's financial contribution is reinforced by the provision of training facilities in Canada for United Nations fellows and by sending abroad Canadian experts. From 1950 to December 31, 1955 Canada provided training for 294 United Nations trainees, while at least 72 Canadians served overseas as United Nations experts. During 1955 alone, 38 trainees were studying in Canada and 32 Canadian experts were working abroad for periods varying from a few days to a year or more. In addition to these United Nations fellows and experts, training was also provided for 383 students under the Colombo Plan from 1950 to December 31, 1955. During the same period 61 Canadian Colombo Plan experts served abroad.

Land Reform

At its fifth session in 1950, the Assembly expressed the opinion that agrarian conditions in many of the under-developed countries and territories hindered economic development because they are a major cause of low agricultural productivity and of low standards of living. The Assembly requested