

supported but it is also apparent that, if they are to be fully effective, they must be co-ordinated within the framework of the United Nations family and also co-ordinated with the various bilateral aid programmes pursued by individual governments.

The promotion of sound trading conditions is at least as important as the provision of aid. In 1962, world trade and industrial activity, which rose to new record levels, presented a somewhat mixed picture, with expansion continuing in North America and in some parts of Europe while the level of economic activity in other areas continued on a relatively high plateau or declined somewhat in relation to previous years. The continued weakness of international commodity prices through the year and other factors led to a persistence of the balance-of-payments problem for those countries in the course of economic development. The further developments in relation to the European Economic Community raised important questions for trading countries in widely scattered parts of the world.

These and other factors gave added stimulus to the United Nations consideration, both in the Economic and Social Council and in the General Assembly, of questions concerning international economic relations. One of the most important developments at the seventeenth session of the Assembly was the unanimous adoption of a resolution in favour of convening a United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The exact date of the Conference was not set and will depend in part on the progress made by the Preparatory Committee, established by the Assembly, but in any event the Assembly resolution calls for the Conference to be held not later than early 1964.

In 1962, arrangements were completed for the coming into operation on January 1, 1963, of the World Food Programme, under the auspices of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization. This development was of particular interest to Canada, which is a member of the Intergovernmental Committee of 20 members, because the World Food Programme stems directly from a proposal made by the Prime Minister at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly.

Partly in response to actual needs and partly as the result of pressure from the developing nations, the programmes of assistance (especially the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance) offered by the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies have been growing in size and scope during recent years. There has been a marked increase of activity at the regional level, placing heavier responsibility on the Regional Economic Commissions of the United Nations. These trends have not only created new administrative requirements and further demands on the financial resources available but they have raised problems of decentralization.

There are, in addition, the voluntary funds maintained for humanitarian purposes. The programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for