

accordance with their respective constitutional provisions and that the agencies would retain full responsibility in determining their own programmes. The recognition of the Agencies' autonomy in these fields removed many objections which had arisen from misunderstanding of the scope and intent of the original resolution. The Council also established a Committee of five members: Canada, Mexico, Poland, U.S.A., and Yugoslavia, to correlate the programme appraisals which the Agencies would submit and to prepare a report showing to what extent the existing programmes responded to the basic needs of the United Nations in the social, economic and human rights fields.

Economic Questions

Economic Development of Under-Developed Countries

The members of the United Nations pledged themselves in the Charter of the United Nations to take joint and separate action in co-operation with the Organization to promote "higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development". The formidable task implicit in this undertaking has involved not only the provision of substantial aid in various forms by the more advanced countries to economically less developed countries, but also the formulation and implementation of measures of international co-operation designed to increase the flow of international investment and trade and generally to create conditions favourable to balanced economic growth. The larger share of the total resources made available so far for technical assistance and financial investment for economic development has been channelled through bilateral programmes such as those undertaken by the United States International Co-operation Administration and under the auspices of the Colombo Plan. However, the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies have also devoted increasing resources to aiding under-developed countries; this has been done principally through the activities of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Finance Corporation and the International Monetary Fund, and through the preparation of studies, the provision of experts and fellowships, and the periodical examination of problems affecting economic development. Other sections in this chapter refer to developments which took place in the General Assembly, in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and in other bodies of the United Nations concerning economic development and international trade and commodity problems.

Among the more important steps taken by the thirteenth session of the General Assembly in the field of economic development were the decisions, based on ECOSOC recommendations, to create a Special Fund for economic assistance to under-developed countries and to expand the technical assistance programmes of the United Nations in the field of public administration (agenda item 28). The need for supplementing the programmes of technical assistance carried out through the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies and providing more adequate resources for the lending operations of existing international institutions had been recognized for some time.¹ The Special Fund, which the General Assembly decided to set up and which has already commenced operations, is designed to help fill this gap by broadening the scope of the existing technical assistance programmes.

¹ Developments affecting the resources available to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund are discussed on pages 66 to 72.