

VI FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Financial Questions

Introduction

The publication date of *Canada and the United Nations* this year permits two financial years to be considered at the same time, since the fiscal year of the United Nations and most of the Specialized Agencies coincides with the calendar year. For convenience, the pertinent details of budget appropriations and scales of contributions for the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies are given in Appendices IV, V, VI and VII. Continued improvement in budgetary and other co-ordination between the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies is apparent, particularly in the development of common services, in the use and development of common premises, and in the scheduling of conferences and meetings¹.

Cost of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies

Administrative Costs

Despite continued efforts by Canada and other delegations to limit the growth in administrative expenditures by the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, total appropriations increased from \$84.26² million in 1954 to \$84.94 million in 1955, and to \$89.55 million in 1956. Canada's contribution to these budgets will total about \$2.99 million in 1956, compared to \$2.8 million in 1955 and \$2.76 million in 1954³. As indicated in the article on "Examination of the Budgets for 1955 and 1956"⁴, part of this increase in United Nations spending is attributable to the higher cost of the United Nations itself. However, as shown in Appendix IV, the largest portion of the increase is accounted for by the Specialized Agencies. Their total appropriations for 1955 were \$38 million, and for 1956 are nearly \$41 million; in 1954 the expenditures of the Specialized Agencies were \$34.6 million. Many members, including Canada, have continued to urge the Specialized Agencies to concentrate their resources on tasks of the highest priority in an endeavour to come closer to the objective set by the General Assembly on December 1, 1950, which requested them "to intensify their efforts to stabilize their regular budgets by the elimination or deferment of less urgent projects". During the discussions held in the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee in 1954 on the question of closer co-ordination between the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, it was generally recognized that further study of this problem was warranted. The Fifth Committee therefore authorized the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to accept invitations from the Specialized Agencies to study the problem of co-ordination at the headquarters of the various Specialized Agencies. During 1956 the Advisory Committee will undertake studies of ILO, UNESCO and WHO. Both the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee have continued to urge the need for careful examination of the activities of the United Nations and the

¹See "Question of Co-ordination and Relations with the Specialized Agencies" above, pp. 61-62.

²Actual expenditure in 1954 was however \$83.1 million.

³See Appendix IV.

⁴See below, pp. 90-91.