

One of the recommendations was that the Canadian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly continue to urge that the budgetary contributions of the Soviet Union and its satellite countries be increased so that they will contribute in proportion to their ability to pay. Members of the committee may be aware that for the third consecutive year increases have been recommended for each country with the exception of Czechoslovakia. As a result of this increase the U.S.S.R. now becomes the second largest contributor to the administrative expenses of the United Nations. The United States' contribution for 1953 has been set at 35.12 per cent, that of the U.S.S.R. at 12.28 per cent, the United Kingdom at 10.30 per cent, and Canada at 3.30 per cent.

In the early stages of the organization the countries of the soviet bloc were given special consideration because of—and here I quote: “the temporary dislocation of their national economies arising out of the second world war”. However, as the war receded it became evident that the extensive and demonstrable improvement in the economies of these countries—an improvement which they were quick to claim in other contexts—was not reflected fully in their contributions to the United Nations. Successive Canadian delegations have been strongly critical of the low contributions paid by the U.S.S.R. and its satellites and have pressed with other like-minded countries for their increase in the hope that it would remove most of the maladjustments still evident in the scales. The progress that has been made is reflected in the following figures, which represent the:

Scale of Assessments, as percentages, recommended by the
United Nations Contributions Committee and
approved by the General Assembly.

	1950	1951	1952	1953
Byelorussia	0.22	0.24	0.34	0.43
Czechoslovakia	0.90	0.99	1.05	1.05
Poland	0.95	1.05	1.36	1.58
Ukraine	0.84	0.92	1.30	1.63
U.S.S.R.	6.34	6.98	9.85	12.28

Another recommendation of this committee last year was that the government continue to give active support to the Colombo Plan; that it give immediate consideration to strengthening Canada's official and technical representation in South and Southeast Asia; and to the provision of adequate housing for representatives already stationed in that area. I wish to say something on each of these points.

Members of the committee will have noted at Vote 102 that the customary contributions both to the Colombo Plan and to technical assistance under that plan are combined this year in one vote.

Mr. Cavell, the administrator of the Colombo Plan in Canada, who is an officer of the Department of Trade and Commerce, left on February 19 for South Asia where he will examine economic development projects in India, Pakistan and Ceylon and will consult with government authorities and Canadian representatives in these countries on plans for further Canadian aid. As a result of this on-the-spot survey it is expected that agreement will be hastened on useful and practical projects to complete the 1952-53 program and to work out the 1953-54 program.

Economic development is, by its very nature, a long-term process and the most useful projects usually require considerable detailed preparatory work and planning, while their actual execution and financing may cover a period of several years. In order to allow for such orderly planning of programs and the most effective use of Canadian contributions to the Colombo Plan, it