

Non-financial agencies

One of the major strengths of the UN system lies in the contributions made in their respective fields by the Specialized Agencies. As we have seen, these are separate, autonomous intergovernmental organizations, each with its own deliberative and executive bodies, secretariat and budget, but belonging to the UN family by virtue of special agreements, the co-ordinating role of the Economic and Social Council and a common system of personnel remunerations. The Agencies deal with such matters as air-safety, medical standards and research, postal services and weather-forecasting. If states are to co-operate to their common benefit in these ways, international organizations of a functional kind are indispensable. They represent the "infrastructure" of global co-operation.

The *International Labour Organization*, established by the Treaty of Versailles and located in Geneva, is one of the largest (in budgetary terms) of the Specialized Agencies. It strives to promote social justice by improving labour conditions and living standards. To achieve these ends, the ILO, in co-operation with management, labour and government, endeavours to establish minimum standards in such fields as social security, wages, hours of work, safety and workmen's compensation. The approximate size of the ILO budget for the 1978-79 biennium was \$207,655,425 (U.S.). For this period Canada contributed approximately \$6 million (Cdn) or 2.9 per cent.

The *Food and Agriculture Organization*, located in Rome, is one of the major Specialized Agencies. Its purpose is to raise levels of nutrition and

improve production and distribution of food supplies from farms, forests and fisheries. The FAO carries out programs of technical assistance in nutrition and food-management, soil-erosion, reforestation, irrigation engineering, pest-control and the use of fertilizers. Its budget for the biennium 1978-79 was \$211,350,000 (U.S.). Canada contributed approximately \$9 million (Cdn) during this period or 3.7 per cent of the total.

The *World Health Organization*, the largest of the Specialized Agencies (in size of programs), has its headquarters in Geneva. To achieve its purpose of improving the health of the people of the world, WHO carries out programs of training and aid to equip countries to improve their own health services. WHO also provides day-to-day information on the major communicable diseases, such as cholera, smallpox and yellow fever. It has also arranged and co-ordinated large-scale industrial research into heart disease and cancer. Canada contributes on a voluntary basis to the Smallpox Eradication Campaign, which is well on its way to wiping out this disease throughout the world. Canada also contributes to the Program of Research Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction. Finally, Canada has pledged \$500,000 (Cdn) a year for a period of six years to the Onchocerciasis (River Blindness) Control Program in West Africa. The approved working budget for 1979 is \$182,730,000 (U.S.), of which Canada contributed 3.1 per cent, or \$6,574,352 (Cdn).