

a year, its membership includes the President and Vice-President of WMO, the President of WMO's six Regional Meteorological Associations, and six elected members;

- (3) six Regional Meteorological Associations (Africa, Asia, South America, North and Central America, Europe, And the Southwest Pacific) composed of member countries whose meteorological networks lie in or extend into the Region.
- (4) Technicals Commissions established by the Congress to study and make recommendations on technical subjects.
- (5) A secretariat under the direction of a Secretary-General.

It is necessary, for the practical use and the comparison of observations made at weather stations throughout the world, to standardize and co-ordinate them. Today, all stations make their observations at the same time in all countries of the world with instruments standardized and compared with international standard instruments. Reports from over 200 Canadian stations are included in the international exchange.

However, WMO does not merely draw up regulations and standardize. In 1953, the Organization's programme included the preparation of world thunderstorm maps and the publication of an international cloud atlas. WMO also takes part in arid zone research and contributes to the development of arid land by studying climatic conditions. The Organization actively collaborates in planning "World days" during the International Geophysical Year to study, on a world-wide basis, the properties of the upper air. Locust control and the protection of crops from this pest is a collective undertaking to which WMO contributes. Another important activity of the Organization is to encourage scientific research and instruction in meteorology by all possible means. The WMO collects and makes available to all national meteorological services information on the regional and international organization of meteorological activity. It may be said that the role of WMO is to provide technical assistance in order to facilitate technical progress within the general field of economic development. In putting its programme of technical assistance into effect, as well as in other fields of its activity, WMO collaborates closely with the United Nations and with other Specialized Agencies.

#### Canadian Participation

The Canadian Meteorological Service has always played an active part in international meteorology. The first meetings of some of the Technical Commissions, after the WMO was founded, took place in Toronto in 1954. The head of the Canadian weather service, Dr. Andrew Thomson, is a member of the Executive Committee, and is also President of Regional Association IV (North and Central America). Members of the Canadian weather service have served on all Technical Commissions, either as chairman, full member, or technical adviser.