

tional and other reasons, the Organization refused to recognize this withdrawal. As a result, these countries are still included in the scale of assessments and the Organization faces cumulative annual deficits of almost one sixth of its prospective income. A comparable situation exists in UNESCO, where Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland stopped attending meetings in 1951 and in ICAO where Poland has not attended any sessions since 1949 and Czechoslovakia stopped attending in 1950.

The United Nations and the Agencies have all sought ways to prevent arrears from reaching dangerous proportions. In the main the organizations have had to rely on urgent appeals to their members for prompt payment of contributions. In some of the Agencies, however, constitutional sanctions (suspension of voting rights or the withdrawal of various privileges) have been invoked against slow-paying members. Canadian delegations to meetings of the Assembly and the Agencies have given vigorous support to all measures designed to achieve the full and prompt payment of assessments.

Headquarters of the United Nations

The permanent headquarters buildings of the United Nations in New York are nearing completion. The Secretariat Building has been in use since the summer of 1950. The Conference Building was officially opened in February 1952 and the General Assembly Building, which contains the main auditorium for plenary sessions, is scheduled for completion in time for the opening of the seventh session of the Assembly in the autumn of 1952.

When the project of constructing the new headquarters was approved in December 1947, the total cost (exclusive of land, which was donated by John D. Rockefeller Jr.) was estimated at \$65 million. To finance construction, the Assembly accepted an offer from the United States Government to provide a \$65 million interest-free loan. The loan agreement stipulated that the loan was to be repaid from the ordinary budget of the United Nations in 32 annual instalments of varying amounts. Two instalments of \$1 million have already been paid.

On December 31, 1951 the Secretary-General reported that \$57,754,880 had already been spent on planning and construction. He informed the Assembly that in spite of changes, substitutions and economies effected in the course of construction, the general rise in building costs made it impossible to complete the work and furnish the buildings within the originally estimated cost of \$65 million. He expected that a further \$3 million would be required to finish the project and he recommended that this amount be provided by the inclusion of \$1 million in the 1952 budget estimates and by the withdrawal of an amount not exceeding \$2 million from the Working Capital Fund. Any advances from working capital would be repaid out of the 1953 budget. The revised estimates submitted by the Secretary-General were carefully scrutinized by the Headquarters Advisory Committee, which consists of the representatives of 16 member countries (including Canada). The Committee reviewed the estimated further requirements in order to ensure that the