

such examination would be of considerable value to member states in discharging their responsibilities for administrative and budgetary review of agency programmes.

### **Geographical Distribution of Staff<sup>1</sup>**

The debate on this matter at the fourteenth session was less controversial than in previous years but nevertheless considerably divergent views were expressed. Some delegations felt that there had been little progress during the preceding year in achieving a better geographical balance. They were particularly concerned at the small number of nationals from regions other than North America and Western Europe serving in the top-level posts. Several measures were suggested to remedy this situation including limiting recruitment to nationals of member states which formed a disproportionately small part of the Secretariat, suspending the existing system of career appointments and granting only fixed-term appointments, and applying the principle of geographical distribution to promotion as well as recruitment.

Other delegations believed that in view of the difficulties of improving the situation rapidly, substantial progress had been made. They were opposed to the remedial measures that had been suggested. In their view these measures were too drastic and would threaten the maintenance of an efficient Secretariat. In addition, they believed that admission of the element of nationality to the promotional system would be contrary to the Charter, inequitable to the staff and an infringement of the prerogatives of the Secretary-General.

A resolution introduced by Japan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Republic was approved unanimously by the Assembly after the adoption of several amendments. It recommended that in recruiting the staff, particularly for top level posts, the Secretary-General give priority to qualified candidates from states, geographical areas and cultures with a disproportionately small number of nationals on the staff.

### **U.N. Library—Gift of the Ford Foundation**

At the fourteenth session the Secretary-General announced that the Ford Foundation had made a gift of \$6.2 million to the United Nations for the construction of a building to house the United Nations Library. The Secretary-General explained that officials of the Secretariat and of the Foundation had been consulting on the possibility of such a gift for several years. Despite certain reservations Foundation officials had finally decided to take positive action in the light of the significant and constructive role played by the Library in the total United Nations effort in pursuance of the high objectives of the Charter. For example the Library had become increasingly useful to members of delegations and secretariat staff and in addition was attracting scholars and writers from all over the world.

The Secretary-General pointed out that the new building would provide facilities that were badly needed. Present facilities could not cope with current demands for services and would become increasingly inadequate in the future.

Many delegations, including the Canadian, expressed warm appreciation of the Ford Foundation's munificence. This appreciation was also recorded in an Assembly resolution which was co-sponsored by 45 member states and adopted unanimously. The resolution also approved the general architectural plan of the Secretary-General for the building and authorized him to proceed with construction.

<sup>1</sup> A discussion of the background to this matter is contained in "*Canada and the United Nations, 1958*", page 95.