

Close liaison was of course maintained throughout the meetings with the US and the UK insofar as a substantive action was concerned, and with the less developed countries who are or might become friendly to the West. Both in Committee work and on the social level the Canadian Delegation enjoyed very friendly relations with all delegations. Of passing interest is the fact that amongst those who stayed to the end of the Canadian reception were a substantially tipsy Russian accompanied by two cohorts, an Indonesian, an Indian, as well as the normal quota of imbibing westerners.

Attached to this analysis is a description of the role played at the 24th Session by the other countries on the Council.† Of special interest, however, was the flexibility and activity of the USSR Delegation. At the close of the 22nd Session of ECOSOC, the Canadian Delegation reported an absence of western great power leadership on the Council; the USA for congressional reasons, the UK for financial reasons and France for political reasons, seemed unwilling or unable to exercise the initiative which would be required to direct ECOSOC discussions into constructive channels. A year ago the USSR did not take advantage of this opening, but it did so to some extent at the 24th Session. This situation was further complicated by the newly found ability of the Polish and Yugoslav delegations to come forward with an increasing number of "independent" but still difficult suggestions. Instead of one rather clumsy and rigid opponent, the Western delegations at the 24th Session were confronted by three active, informed and fairly adaptable opponents. It took a good deal of effort, in which the Canadian Delegation took a leading part, to convince the less developed country participants where their best interests lay and to muster majorities for the appropriate decisions.

#### *Future Possibilities*

In the light of this situation, the Delegation gave some preliminary thought to possibilities for action in ECOSOC which might be supported by future Canadian delegations. It is not expected that the Canadian Government would wish to make a large number of extensive proposals in ECOSOC but the preliminary views of the Delegation may be useful in considering whether it is possible for future Canadian delegations to initiate, or persuade others to initiate, appropriate action and in what fields this action might be concentrated. It should be recalled that Canada will attend only two more full sessions of the Council in 1958 before its term will end. During this year, however, we might well have considerable influence in determining the future course of ECOSOC.

With these considerations in mind, the following are a few brief comments on some items which might be considered further by the Canadian authorities. They are not arranged in any order of priority.

1. *Technical Assistance.* The Technical Assistance Programme, although widely supported and efficient, is at present suffering from an acute shortage of funds in the face of expanding needs. Increased support for this effective multilateral UN programme can be justified not only on humanitarian grounds but on practical grounds. The Delegation is submitting a separate comment on this question.

2. *Resources Development.* The Delegation believes that whether the Canadian authorities want to encourage this development or not, there will be increased pressure in the coming years in ECOSOC and General Assembly for a United Nations programme designed to promote the development of natural resources in under-developed countries. This would not necessarily involve a capital assistance programme but might well involve substantial commitments of a technical assistance nature. In any case, Canadian delegations, in the light of Canada's own experience, should be able to make constructive and detailed suggestions in this field.