

The International Bureau, located at Berne, Switzerland, which is under the general supervision of the Swiss Government, functions as the Central Secretariat of the Union. This office co-ordinates and publishes all sorts of information about the international postal services and undertakes various other tasks. At the request of the parties concerned, it gives opinions on questions of disagreement between postal administrations. In addition, the Bureau carries out requests for amendment of the Acts of the Union and promulgates newly-accepted conditions. It plays an active part in the preparation of the Congresses.

The total annual expenses of the International Bureau are, in principle, limited by the Congress, which fixes a ceiling of expenditure aligned to an established long-term programme. Expenses are shared by member countries according to the class in which they hold membership as approved by Congress. In 1966, Canada was assessed 2.68 per cent of the UPU budget,¹ which amounted to \$33 million (Cdn).

During 1966, Canada participated in the meetings of the Executive Council, particularly in its capacity as chairman of the Finance Committee and member of the Organization and Air-Mail Committees. The Finance Committee deals primarily with the annual budget of the International Bureau and other financial questions of interest to the Union; the Organization Committee is engaged in a thoroughgoing examination and assessment of the set-up of the International Bureau and the jurisdiction of the Swiss Government as supervisory authority and the Air-Mail Committee is studying problems arising from the rapidly developing air-mail services. At these meetings, the Council studied various matters, such as the construction of a new building at Berne to house the International Bureau, the conditions of employment and salaries of the staff of the International Bureau, various resolutions resulting from the 1964 Vienna Congress, preparations for the sixteenth Universal Postal Congress, relations with the United Nations and other international organizations, participation of the Universal Postal Union in the United Nations Development Programme, etc.

Also in 1966, Canada took part in a number of studies undertaken by the Executive Council and the Management Council of the Consultative Committee on Postal Studies such as the simplification of the postage-rate structure, establishment of uniform standards regarding air transmission of insured items, air-mail conveyance rates, the expenses involved in handling incoming international mail and the functions exercised by the Swiss Confederation in relation to the Universal Postal Union.

¹ See Appendix I, Section 4.