

# REFERENCE PAPERS



INFORMATION DIVISION  
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NO. 93 CANADA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNITED NATIONS

Each member of the United Nations (and at the present time 80 states belong to it) is required to pay an annual membership fee, usually called an assessment, which represents the country's share of the normal administrative expenditures of the Organization. Last year Canada's share was \$1.6 million, representing 3.63 per cent of the United Nations administrative budget of approximately \$48.6 million.

Canada also pays an annual fee for membership in each of the ten United Nations Specialized Agencies, which are the chief instruments through which members of the United Nations pool their efforts and resources to help achieve higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress throughout the world. In 1956 the total of Canada's assessments for membership in these Agencies was about \$1.4 million.<sup>(1)</sup>

In addition to the assessments for the regular budgets of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, member states have been requested each year to contribute to special programmes of assistance designed to overcome certain acute problems and serious deficiencies which exist in various materially under-developed areas of the world. As money for these special programmes is not available through the regular budgets of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, it has to come from "extra budgetary funds", i.e. those obtained from voluntary contributions made by member states. At the present time the United Nations is sponsoring four of these special programmes -- the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the United Nations Refugee Fund (UNREF) and the United Nations Expanded Technical Assistance Programme (ETAP).

As is understandable, political and security questions before the United Nations are widely publicized in newspapers, magazines, over the radio and on television. Not much public attention is given, however, to the quiet, valuable and constructive work of the Specialized Agencies and that done under the four special programmes, which continues steadily with little fanfare and few newspaper headlines. Through these agencies and programmes the member countries of the United Nations endeavour to conquer the timeless enemies of mankind -- hunger, malnutrition, illiteracy and illness -- and thus to raise the world's living standards and, perhaps, contribute indirectly to political stability. In this aspect of United Nations work there has never been much assistance or co-operation from the communist countries.

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(1) These figures do not include Canada's contributions to the capital of two of the Specialized Agencies, the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.