

During the past three years, considerable thought has been given to revising the audit procedure now in use. Under the existing method, the Board of Auditors supplies its own staff from the three member governments; this staff assists the Board in carrying out the external audit of the United Nations Secretariat. Although this system provides the United Nations with a completely external and independent audit, it places a heavy burden on those governments whose Auditors General are members of the Board, particularly now that the financial activities of the United Nations are increasing. At the seventh session in 1952, a resolution co-sponsored by Canada and Denmark was adopted requesting the Secretary-General to review this audit procedure. However, the eighth and ninth sessions of the United Nations postponed any consideration of the problem pending the completion of the Secretary-General's review of the administrative structure of the Secretariat.

At the tenth session in 1955, the Secretary-General introduced proposals for revising the audit procedure of the United Nations. In these proposals he sought to lighten the burden of the members of the Board by the establishment of an "Office of External Audit" headed by a Chief Auditor who would be wholly independent of the Secretariat which would provide the audit services for the Board of Auditors. The Board would continue to function within its existing terms of reference, but would not be required to carry out the detailed work.

While these proposals were generally acceptable to Canada, other countries wanted more time to consider the question. Canada joined in sponsoring a resolution which was adopted by the General Assembly, requesting the Secretary-General to consult the Board and the Specialized Agencies on the possibility of developing a common system of audit; the Secretary-General was also requested to recommend to the twelfth session of the General Assembly in 1957 a future course of action on this problem.

## **Administrative Questions**

### **Joint Staff Pension Fund**

The report of the Joint Staff Pension Board to the ninth session of the General Assembly contained summaries of decisions at its fourth and fifth sessions and a financial statement for the year 1953. The Board recommended amendments to the administrative rules of the Fund; it also recommended the admission of the interim commission of the International Trade Organization to the Fund. In a separate report, the Secretary-General informed the Assembly that four Specialized Agencies had accepted the jurisdiction of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal for Pension Fund matters. Discussion in the General Assembly was brief and mainly non-contentious. While a few delegations requested postponement of the proposed admission of the ITO interim commission to the Fund, the regulation was adopted by a substantial majority.

At the tenth session of the General Assembly, an actuarial valuation was presented along with the Joint Staff Pension Board report. The actuary reported a continuation and strengthening of the favourable financial position of the Pension Fund and the Board recommended a number of amendments to the regulations including a proposed change in the basis of pensionable remuneration from "the last ten years of service" to "the best five years of service". While the Advisory Committee suggested that longer actuarial experience might be desirable, it concurred in the change provided it was based on the last five years of service rather than the best five years. In the debate, the