

International Finance Corporation

Membership in the International Finance Corporation (IFC) is open to all members of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development which has drafted the Articles of Agreement of the IFC. The Charter of the Corporation requires a minimum membership of 30 countries together subscribing at least \$75 million before the Corporation can begin operations.

In October 1955, Canada became a member of the Corporation by signing the Articles of Agreement and by depositing an Instrument of Acceptance. As its contribution, Canada will purchase 3600 shares in the Corporation at a value of \$1,000 (U.S.) per share, or a total of approximately \$3.6 million.

The United States and the United Kingdom, both of whom have signed the Articles of Agreement, are the two largest percentage shareholders. The United States subscription amounts to approximately \$35 million and the United Kingdom's to \$14 million.

The role of the International Finance Corporation may be summarized briefly as follows: its basic objective will be to encourage the growth of productive private enterprises in its member countries, particularly in the less developed areas of the world. In order to attain its basic objective, the Corporation will do three things: (1) It will invest in productive undertakings, in association with private investors and without government guarantee, in cases where sufficient private capital is not available on reasonable terms; (2) It will seek, as suitable opportunities for productive investment come to its attention, to recruit capital from private sources and, if necessary, will try to find experienced management; and (3) It will endeavour, in general, to stimulate, and to help create conditions which will stimulate, the flow of both domestic and international private investment into productive enterprises in International Finance Corporation's member countries.

Technical Assistance

The multilateral technical assistance programme is an important part of the activities of the United Nations and enjoys broad public support throughout the world. It is one of the most effective means of assisting the economically less well developed countries and, in this respect, complements Canadian participation in the Colombo Plan. Canada has actively supported these endeavours which provide a continuing expression of international co-operation to raise the standards of living and improve economic conditions in the less developed areas of the world.

The Regular Programme of Technical Assistance is financed out of the ordinary budgets of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies and is more directly under the responsibility of the General Assembly than the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance which is supervised mainly by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and its Technical Assistance Committee, and over which the General Assembly exercises only a broad control. The Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance depends upon voluntary contributions from interested governments. Its activities are carried out through the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration and the various Specialized Agencies. Since its inception in 1950 the Expanded Programme has received increasing support from members and non-members of the United Nations¹.

The Canadian Representative at the Sixth Technical Assistance Conference in November 1955 expressed confidence in the programme, and an-

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1953-54*, pp. 37-39.