

United Nations

Fourth, with regard to public administration, training activities have continued to form the most important element of the program of technical assistance carried out under a resolution adopted by the general assembly. A course of public administration was opened in Rio de Janeiro; a public institute for Turkey and the Middle East was opened in March, 1953; a training course for government accountants began to function in Libya in March, 1953. At the end of the year there were requests from four countries for similar courses. Expert advice was given to six nations.

Fifth, with regard to statistics and population questions, the experts of the United Nations are organizing a uniform method to establish demographic statistics and also to serve on statistical assignments in 16 countries to study general statistical organization or specific subjects such as national income statistics, statistical methodology, economic, financial and fiscal statistics, import and export statistics from census operations.

Sixth, with regard to social welfare and development, the ground covered includes general social welfare questions, policy, administration and training, family, youth and child welfare, community development and social research, rehabilitation of the physically handicapped, housing, town and country planning, social defence. This is a very wide and complicated organization.

I might take one minute to say a few words about one cruel problem which comes within the framework of social welfare. It is the problem of the youth of the world. Children are the heritage of nations. They deserve consideration, and they should be taken care of at every stride of their lives. The life of children in an underdeveloped country is a sad story. There is a need for maternal and child welfare, children's hospitals and wards, school health services, clinics, laboratories, and so on; and what I could say about the need for equipment, drugs and medicines of all kinds is just out of this world.

What I have said is just a sketch of the activities of the United Nations in the field of technical assistance. Let us ask now, where does Canada stand with respect to this problem? The population of Canada is 15 million people today, and the contribution of our country has been within the reach of our possibilities, if we take into consideration our contribution in the Korean war, to the Colombo plan and to the international bank for reconstruction and development. The Canadian government is well aware of the importance of technical assistance, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs is

[Mr. Boisvert.]

to be commended for his participation in technical assistance to underdeveloped countries. I would like to quote from "Canada and the United Nations, 1951-1952" at page 45:

One of the most significant developments in international affairs since the second world war has been the emergence of the idea of technical assistance to underdeveloped countries. The technical assistance activities of the United Nations, the United States "Point Four Programme" and the Colombo plan have all grown from the concept that the underdeveloped countries of the world should be helped to help themselves, that they should be able to call on the more economically advanced countries for the technical knowledge and skills which would enable them to make the best use of their own resources.

From this quotation it is evident that Canadian policy is in favour of giving assistance to underdeveloped countries. Now, let us see what was accomplished to implement this policy. The total pledged, as was said by the hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Thomas), by 52 countries, members of the United Nations, was equivalent to about \$20 million for a period of 18 months, ending December, 1951. For the second period of 12 months a sum of about \$18 million was pledged by 65 countries; and for the third period, 1953, 67 governments pledged about \$21 million.

The Canadian contributions for each of these periods were \$772,727, \$750,000 and \$800,000. I should add to this that within the framework of the Colombo plan, Canada spent \$400,000 each year, over the past years, for technical assistance to south and southeast Asia. From 1950 to June 1953, Canada provided training facilities for 177 fellows and scholars under the United Nations program, and 116 under the Colombo plan. During the same period we provided almost 150 experts for United Nations technical assistance projects, and 24 under the Colombo plan.

If we consider that Canada has contributed \$25 million in each of the last three fiscal years to the Colombo plan, we must admit that our share is one to be praised by all Canadians. We must also add our subscription to the international bank for reconstruction and development. Canada acquired 3,250 shares representing \$325 million. This international bank is also giving technical assistance to the member countries of the organization, and also to countries which are not affiliated with this international bank. This institution is now eight years old, and in 1952 it made available 19 loans to nine countries, representing a sum of nearly \$179 million. Since its origin the bank made nearly two billions of dollars of loans and 29 countries benefited. The bank has given