

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

MINISTERIAL MEETING, 1963

THE THIRD annual meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development was held on November 19 and 20 in Paris. The Secretary of State for External Affairs represented the Canadian Government. (At the end of the meeting, a communiqué, reproduced on Page 8, was issued.)

One of the most important subjects considered at this meeting was development assistance. Particular attention was paid to the efforts of the Development Assistance Committee to improve the co-ordination of members' aid and to the importance of achieving qualitative as well as quantitative improvements in their assistance to less-developed nations. The ministerial meeting welcomed the expanded programme of development assistance which the Canadian Government had announced a few days earlier.

Ministers also discussed commercial relations with the less-developed countries and agreed on the need for a positive approach by members to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 1964. They decided to establish a special working group to continue consultations on this subject. This group has since held several meetings.

Annual Review

The ministerial meeting normally establishes the lines for activities in the year ahead, but it is also a time for reviewing those of the preceding year. The ministers reviewed the economic results in member countries, noting that there had been an increase in the rate of activity in many and that in the OECD as a whole prospects for future growth were considerably better than at the time of the last ministerial meeting.

There were several other major developments in the OECD in 1963. On July 14, Japan was invited to become the twenty-first member. When Japanese ratification procedures are completed, the Organization's membership will have been expanded beyond the North American and European area to which it has been confined thus far.

Science Meetings

A ministerial meeting on science was held by the OECD in Paris on October 3 and 4. Canada was represented by the Honourable C. M. Drury. Three principal topics were discussed: national science policy, international science co-operation