

the advanced and under-developed countries. With this objective in mind Canadian delegations have been instructed to play as practical and constructive a role as possible even on proposals against which they might eventually have to vote; to keep in mind the necessity of close co-ordination with the United Kingdom and United States delegations; and to keep in mind the financial limitations on Canadian support generally applicable to United Nations programmes. Also delegations have been instructed to avoid unproductive propaganda debates which hamper the useful work of the Council but to reply as necessary to Soviet bloc delegations if East-West differences emerge.

5. In maintaining these well-established lines of Canadian policy the Delegation to the 26th session should bear in mind that Canada will this year be leaving the Council for an indefinite period and should indicate by active participation to the extent it considers appropriate the continued interest which we expect to take in the affairs of the Council and its increasingly important role in promoting the healthy and productive integration of the world society in the economic and social fields.

6. The following paragraphs contain more specific instructions on certain important items of the agenda. In addition, the approval of Cabinet will be sought for instructions concerning the World Food Reserve, the Special Fund for Economic Development and the International Administrative Service; and the Delegation will be informed of Cabinet's decisions.

World Economic Survey

7. The Economic and Social Council each year holds a general discussion of world economic problems, for which the Secretary-General prepares a report entitled "World Economic Survey". The World Economic Survey for 1957 deals with the inflationary trends experienced by many countries in the past three years and with the economic downturn which has become apparent in the Western world during 1957 and the early part of 1958. It is critical of some of the economic policies followed during this period by the industrialized countries and draws attention to the difficulties which fluctuations in economic activity have created for the under-developed countries and particularly the instability in commodity prices. The Survey indicates that the recovery from the present downturn may not be so rapid as in earlier postwar recessions. It refers to the continued expansion of production, although at a slower rate of growth, in the "centrally planned economies" of the Soviet bloc.

8. During the session the Soviet bloc may be expected to expound their views on the instability of the economics of the Western countries and may seek the adoption of a resolution calling for some far-reaching measures to deal with world economic problems. Past Soviet initiatives of this sort (e.g. for a world economic conference or for a new world trade organization) have not received much support. The Canadian position on such issues has been and should continue to be that existing international machinery is adequate and flexible enough to deal with economic problems, although we recognize a need to use it more effectively. Emphasis might also be given to the importance which Canada attaches to the expansion of international trade and our desire to support moves aimed at improving international trading conditions.

9. If efforts are made by under-developed countries to seek from the United Nations fresh initiatives in various fields to increase the scale or scope of assistance to their economic development programmes, the Canadian Delegation should take the occasion to express, in suitable terms, its sympathy for the problems and needs of those countries. In this context, the Delegation might make appropriate reference to the tangible support which Canada has given not only through many United Nations aid programmes for under-developed coun-