

## WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

The First Assembly of the World Health Organization concluded its meetings on July 24 after a one-month session in Geneva which was marked by the same spirit of co-operation that has been characteristic of all sessions of the Interim Commission of the World Health Organization since its inception. Almost uniquely among the Specialized Agencies, the World Health Organization has been able to conduct its affairs without differences of opinion based primarily on divergencies of political views. Specifically the work of the World Health Organization has been distinguished by the very full co-operation on the part of the U.S.S.R. and by the Eastern States of Europe.

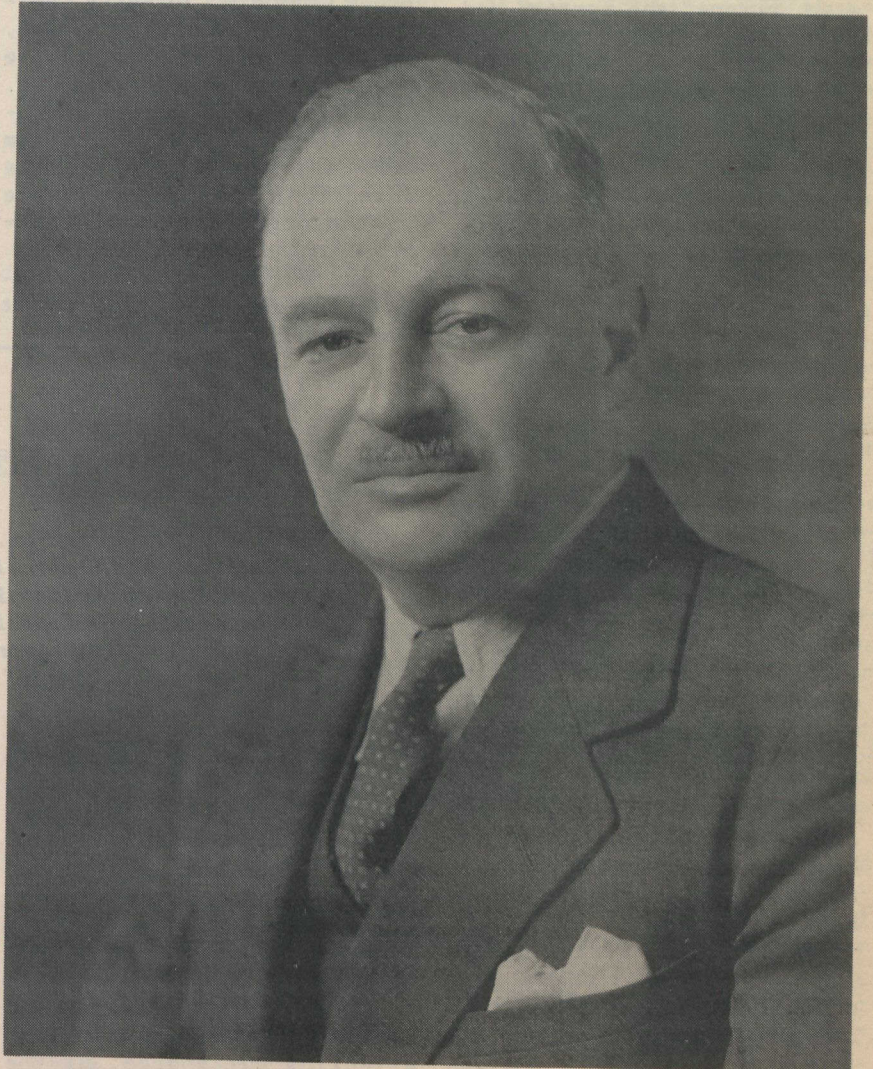
The World Health Organization is the most recent of the United Nations Specialized Agencies to have come into legal existence. Until this first World Health Assembly, this organization has been operating as an Interim Commission and has been financed by the United Nations. As a result of decisions taken in Geneva during this last month the World Health Organization will now be operating on a precise budget to which the various Member states, now numbering sixty-nine, will contribute in accordance with their resources. The budget for the first year's operations has been set at \$5,000,000 and of this Canada will contribute approximately \$200,000.

### PROGRAMME OF OPERATIONS

The function of the World Health Organization is to act as a directing and co-ordinating authority on international health work. At the recently concluded session in Geneva a programme of operations was adopted in accordance with decisions and policy which had been formed in earlier meetings of the Interim Commission.

At this first session of the World Health Organization there was some difference of opinion concerning the most effective manner in which the organization could operate. Certain representatives of the

Kingdom, judged that it was of great importance that advanced countries too should benefit from the work of the organization. As a consequence, a compromise programme was arranged which makes provision for the



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sixty-nine States present held the view that WHO should exist largely to help backward countries create health services comparable to those of more advanced countries. Other States, noticeably the United

plagues and pestilences that are still endemic in many parts of the world, but at the same time a generous part of the budget is to be devoted to public health administration, to maternity and child welfare.