

of available expert personnel. Members of the Committee will recall that the distinguished representative of New Zealand, one of our co-sponsors, referred in his statement last week to the fact that the opportunities for recruitment in his country had not yet been exploited to the full, and expressed the hope that all those countries capable of providing people with the necessary qualifications would be given the opportunity to do so....

SPECIFIC TERMS

"I turn now...to the specific terms of the resolution. The first two preambular paragraphs refer to the recruiting situation as it now exists and as it is expected to develop, not only in relation to United Nations technical assistance programmes generally but also in relation to the needs of the Trust Territories and of the newly-independent states....

"Preambular Paragraph 3 cites the value of promptness in recruiting and Paragraph 4 the possibility of action by governments to place themselves in a better position to meet the growing demand for experts.

"Operative Paragraph 1 urges member governments to support and assist the efforts now being made by the United Nations and its related agencies to recruit experts.

"The next three operative paragraphs, Numbers 2 to 4, contain the recommendations for additional measures on the part of governments about which I have spoken. I should like to comment on the measures singled out for attention in further detail.

DELAY DETRIMENTAL

"Operative Paragraph 2 places emphasis on promptness of response by member countries when they are approached by a United Nations agency for expert personnel as a consequence of a request made by another member country. I think it will be generally agreed that lengthy delays in recruitment can have seriously detrimental effects on the development of any technical assistance programme. There are many situations, indeed, where a rapid response is vital--in cases of natural disaster, for example, such as we have seen recently at Agadir or in Chile, or in other situations, which many member governments will have experienced, where no general emergency exists but where the need for expert assistance for a specific task becomes urgent. In such cases, when the requesting government signifies that particular urgency attaches to its request, every effort should be made to overcome the all-too-prevalent obstacles to rapid recruitment.

"Operative Paragraphs 3 and 4 recommend for the consideration of the governments concerned certain devices which could, in our view, contribute to this end. The first of these is the establishment in national capitals of rosters of qualified personnel available for

assignment by the United Nations and its related agencies to advisory or operational posts, especially when requesting governments find themselves in the position of requiring experts quickly.

P.M.'S STATEMENT CITED

"This proposal was referred to by the Prime Minister of Canada...in his address to the General Assembly on September 26. At that time, speaking of the needs which have arisen in distress and disaster areas in different parts of the world, Mr. Diefenbaker said...: "National action of a standby nature is obviously desirable...We suggest that experts, in an "experts bank", if you will, might be recruited for medicine, public health, sanitation, public welfare, distribution of supplies, communications, transportation. To set up an "experts bank" would make for administrative stability instead of having to rely on a crash recruiting campaign for this purpose after the need arises."

"In Canada...our attention was focussed on this aspect of the matter as a result of our participation directly and through United Nations agencies and such other international bodies as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent in the relief operations made necessary by the earthquakes in Morocco and Chile. We do not consider, however, that the usefulness of the roster idea is confined to disaster situations. Provided, as the resolution states, that, within their own constitutional structures, member governments find it desirable and feasible to do so, we believe that the maintenance of rosters could contribute substantially to shorten the recruiting process of qualified experts for a wide variety of assignments.

CANADA'S INTENTION

"We do not suggest, of course, that this pattern is necessarily one which all governments would be able, or would wish to follow. Modifications would in any case be necessary in the various countries to suit local circumstances. We ourselves intend in Canada...to establish such a roster of experts drawn from fields in which we believe our experience might be useful. Persons entered on this roster will be ready to accept at short notice United Nations assignments in countries which request them. I am happy to say that we have already taken the preliminary steps toward developing this arrangement on a workable basis. I should perhaps emphasize at this point, in case any delegation has doubts on that score, that none of the suggestions we are advancing contemplate for a moment any departure from the well-established and fundamentally important principle that the requesting government must have the right to specify the qualifications, personal, professional or national of the experts which it will receive.