

again the following year. The Canadian contribution was set at 3.35 per cent.

In 1948 the General Assembly acceded to United States demands for a ceiling on its contribution and adopted a resolution stipulating that "in normal times" no one government should pay more than one-third of the ordinary budget of the United Nations. It was agreed that this ceiling would be approached gradually as "world economic conditions improve". The Assembly also decided, on Canadian insistence, that "in normal times" the per capita contribution of any member should not exceed the per capita contribution of the member bearing the highest assessment. In proposing this principle, the Canadian Representative stressed that member states would find it exceedingly difficult to justify a higher per capita payment than the United States, the country with the highest per capita income in the world.

The scale first adopted by the Assembly remained in force without significant modification until 1950. This was due mainly to the lack of reliable statistical data, but also to the fact that many member states pleaded an inability to pay larger shares of the budget. The only change in the Canadian contribution during this period was a reduction to 3.2 per cent in 1948, as a result of the addition of new members to the organization. Similarly, the United States received a token reduction (in 1949) of 0.10 per cent in its assessment as a first move toward the new ceiling.

As in previous years, the United Nations Committee on Contributions' recommendations for a 1951 scale were adopted by the Fifth Session of the General Assembly. In its report to the Assembly, the Contributions Committee stated that although national income statistics were still inadequate for some countries, they were generally more up-to-date than in previous years. These statistics, in conjunction with official statements and other available information, gave a clear indication of the extent of economic recovery in many countries. As a result, the committee felt that progress should now be made toward the removal of maladjustments in the scale. It therefore recommended that the 1951 contributions of fourteen countries be increased and of nine decreased. In particular, it recommended that the assessment of the U.S.S.R. (which had not been changed since the beginning) should be raised by 10 per cent from 6.34 per cent to 6.98 per cent. The contributions of the other countries in the Soviet bloc were to be raised by the same proportion. At the same time, the committee felt that the growth of the Canadian national income justified an increase from 3.2 per cent to 3.3 per cent in the Canadian assessment.

These increases mainly benefited Sweden and the United States, whose contributions were reduced by 0.13 per cent and 0.87 per cent respectively. The reduction in the Swedish share was intended to compensate for an earlier over-assessment. The United States reduction represented a further move toward the implementation of the ceiling principle.

As the seventh largest contributor to the United Nations, Canada has repeatedly stressed the importance of an equitable apportionment of expenses. At the Fifth Session of the Assembly, the