

for 1953. Many member states have expressed concern that costs should be growing at a time when their other financial commitments are at a high level. Reflecting these views, the General Assembly has emphasized the importance of ensuring that the activities and programmes of the various organizations are kept within manageable proportions, having regard to the resources available for them, and has recommended that member governments endeavour to stabilize the expenditures of the United Nations and the Agencies. In the Canadian view, member states can work towards these objectives by exerting their influence in debate on behalf of economy, and by exercising self-restraint in calling for the extension of United Nations activities in directions which would add substantially to present costs. Canadian delegations to meetings of the General Assembly and of the Agencies have given vigorous support to efforts to achieve greater concentration of resources on projects which deserve priority; to eliminate waste and extravagance; to improve administrative methods and techniques; and to co-ordinate programmes in order to avoid duplication of effort.

Cost of the United Nations

It is customary, in United Nations parlance, to refer to "administrative" budgets and to the budgets of "operational" programmes. The terms themselves do not, perhaps, explain the distinction very clearly. The "administrative" budgets cover the regular activities of the United Nations and of the Specialized Agencies. The "operational" programmes are certain special programmes (Korean reconstruction, aid for Palestine refugees, technical assistance, and aid for children) undertaken by the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, outside their regular activities. The "administrative" costs of the United Nations and Agencies are met by assessments against member states, whereas the "operational" programmes are usually financed by voluntary contributions from member states. In the following sections of this chapter, administrative and operational budgets are considered separately.

Administrative Costs

It will be seen, from the table which appears as Appendix 6, that the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies budgeted for administrative expenditures of \$82.8 million¹ for 1952 as compared with \$84.1 million for 1951, or a reduction of \$1.3 million. But in 1951 there was an appropriation of \$5 million for the International Refugee Organization (IRO), which ended its official activities at the end of 1951; no corresponding appropriation was made for 1952.

¹Since the United States dollar is the basic unit of account for the United Nations and most of the Agencies, all figures in this chapter and the related appendices are expressed in United States dollars unless otherwise indicated. Where payments have been made in Canadian dollars or other currencies, appropriate conversions have usually been made. In a few cases Canadian dollar amounts are shown, usually because the amounts are payments which are still to be made and the United States dollar equivalent in each instance will depend on the exchange rate prevailing on the date of payment.