

United Nations in the economic development field, and the Second Committee has followed with interest the Council's current reappraisal and review of its role and functions.¹ At the twentieth session, the Committee, in approving a resolution drafted by Canada, took note of this work and asked the Secretary-General to submit detailed proposals on how the Council's procedures and working methods might be improved. The Committee did not have time to deal with the decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations or a Maltese proposal to launch an enquiry into the administration and effectiveness of all United Nations programmes and agencies involved in fostering the development process.

Capital and Technical Assistance

Aside from questions relating to the reorganization and expansion of United Nations machinery in the development field, the Second Committee dealt with a number of specialized questions. It approved the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (ACAST) that a programme should be drafted identifying certain problems throughout the world which, with the application of advanced technology, might be solved with considerable benefit (e.g. the desalinization of water). While not within the purview of the Advisory Committee's work, the acquisition of patents by developing countries will play an important part in their development and, in a follow-up to a previous study on patent legislation in developing countries, the Second Committee in 1965 requested that studies be made of certain aspects of the question of the role of patents in the transfer of technology to developing countries.

In a further effort to bring about an increase in the amount of outside capital available for development, the developing countries have included on the agenda of a number of sessions an item about the accelerated flow of capital and technical assistance, and discussion often centred on the relative merits of private and public investment. At the twentieth session, a resolution was approved calling upon governments to consider measures for the promotion of private and foreign investment in developing countries, while a second resolution expressed concern that the net flow of international assistance and long-term capital had virtually ceased to increase in recent years and urged the developed countries to make their lending terms more liberal. Canada abstained on the second resolution, which asked developed countries to bear in mind a recommendation of the United Nations Conference on Trade and

¹See Page 62.