

68. The creation of the Economic and Social Council as a principal organ of the United Nations to deal with economic and social problems is a reflection of the growing importance of international co-operation in such matters and of the realization that overlapping and possibly conflicting policies on the part of the operating agencies can be avoided only if there is a consultative body to facilitate co-ordination.

69. In order to carry out the enormous obligations vested in it by the Charter, the Economic and Social Council has established a large number of Commissions in various fields which have, in turn, set up a number of Sub-commissions. Canada has served as a member on five of these Commissions: the Economic and Employment Commission, the Narcotic Drugs Commission, Population Commission, Social Commission, and the Statistical Commission. These bodies meet periodically and report to the Economic and Social Council on the matters within their mandate. It is only in this way that it would be possible for the United Nations to make any progress in the very broad field which comes under the general jurisdiction of ECOSOC.

70. Another major function of ECOSOC is to act as a liaison between the United Nations and the specialized functional agencies to which large areas of international collaboration have been entrusted. There are eleven of these agencies at the present time, either formed or in the process of formation, and their names indicate the special economic or social program with which they are concerned: the International Labour Organization; the Food and Agriculture Organization; the International Monetary Fund; the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; the Universal Postal Union; the International Telecommunications Union; the International Civil Aviation Organization; the World Health Organization; the International Refugee Organization; the International Trade Organization; and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Canada is a member of all these specialized agencies. In carrying out its functions it is the task of ECOSOC to bring these agencies and their policies and activities into co-ordination as much as possible. This is not meant to be done by giving the Council overriding authority but rather by the exchange of information, by reciprocal representation and by special consultations. ECOSOC is also charged under Articles 63 and 57 of the Charter with the conclusion of agreements, on behalf of the United Nations with each of these specialized agencies, to bring them into relationship with the United Nations. Already a considerable number of these agreements have been concluded between ECOSOC and the specialized agencies and approved by the General Assembly.

71. It is quite impossible here to give more than a very brief outline of Canada's general policy towards the Economic and Social Council. Perhaps this policy was most concisely stated on October 6, 1947, by the Canadian representative in the Economic Committee of the General Assembly: "The Canadian Government believes that if the Economic and Social Council effectively discharges its obligations it will come to be regarded more and more as the most constructive single organ of the United Nations (with the exception, of course, of the General Assembly itself). While we in no sense under-estimate the supreme importance of the tasks for which the Security Council is responsible, these tasks are preventive rather than constructive - to prevent aggression and threats to the peace. The tasks of the Economic and Social Council, on the other hand, are essentially positive and constructive - to promote human well-being, high standards of living, and human progress generally.... No lasting progress can be made towards bettering the lot of mankind if it is to be plagued with constantly recurring threats of an even more dreadful and cruel war. But if a basis