Canadian students have much to gain by participating in such events. They provide a rich experience, an opening on life outside Canada; they contribute greatly to international understanding and friendship, and provide valuable knowledge for our own use. It is hoped our participation will be substantially increased in future.

Material Assistance

There exists a specialized international agency providing assistance to students in some 40 countries: the World University Service (WUS). NFCUS cooperates closely with WUS in Canada and the two organizations have sponsored such joint activities as a university campaign for World Refugee Year. However, NFCUS has also appealed occasionally on its own to its member universities and has secured funds to assist students in Morocco, Chile, Algeria, South Africa and India.

Assistance to Morocco, Chile and India was given in response to emergency situations. On the other hand, needs in Algeria and now in South Africa and the Congo are growing.

Because of the political implications, Canadian students at first were somewhat reticent to commit their support to Algerian students. Yet they require our support. Although we have been able to give some aid to refugee students in Tunisia and Morocco, there is also a pressing need for scholarships to permit them to continue their studies outside Algeria. Money was raised through international contributions to provide some 80 scholarships in Europe and approximately 25 in the United States. The Eastern European countries offered an unlimited number of scholarships which the Algerian student were reluctant to accept but finally had to, in limited numbers.

These are urgent needs that completely exceed the means of Canadian students. Assistance has been requested from university administrations and others and is now forthcoming, after a slow start. It is of absolute necessity that the Government cooperate, if not in providing actual scholarships, at least in facilitating admittance of these students to Canada. The stakes are the minds of men, and democracy should enter wholeheartedly into the contest.