

The International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCITT) is responsible for recommendations to the ITU on technical operating and tariff questions relating to telegraphy and telephony. The CCITT is studying the entirely new problem of semi-automatic operation made possible by the extensive development of submerged repeater telephone cables.

There has been an all-round increase in the technical co-operation activities of the Union during the year 1962 and there is every indication that this will continue to be so during the year to come. As the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance for 1962 was the second half of that for the biennium 1961-62 approved by the General Assembly in 1960, there was a significant increase in the number of applications for assistance under the contingency authority of the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board. The number of Special Fund projects approved rose to seven, while field operations have been commenced on six of them. A second telecommunications seminar was held in Paris, intended specially for the newly independent French-speaking countries of Africa, as a means of providing technical assistance in kind. Applications for assistance under the Funds-in-Trust scheme have also shown an increase.

Universal Postal Union

At the fourteenth Universal Postal Congress, held in Ottawa in 1957, Canada was elected to the Executive and Liaison Committee at UPU. Consisting of 20 members elected by the Congress on a geographical basis, the Committee meets annually to ensure continuity of the Union's work between Congresses, maintains relations with postal administrations and international organizations, exercises control over the International Bureau (UPU's Secretariat) and makes recommendations to the Congress. The Deputy Postmaster General of Canada is at present First Vice-President of the Committee.

At its September meeting, the Committee continued the study of the various questions referred to it by the Congress in Ottawa, in particular the regulations governing the transmission of airmail, the revision of the rate structure for the various classes of mail with a view to possible simplification, and the question of changes in the scale of transit charges payable to the intermediate countries for the handling and transportation of mail despatches passing through their territories.

The sub-committee on airmail and the sub-committee on salaries and working conditions of the personnel of the International Bureau also met in the course of the year. Canada attended both these meetings, the former in March and the latter in September.

With the admission of Sierra Leone, Togo and Liechtenstein, membership in the UPU rose from 114 to 117 in 1962. Canada has been a member of the Union since 1878.