

UNICEF

The United Nations Children's Fund was established by the General Assembly in December 1946 to provide emergency aid to children in war-devastated countries following the termination of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA). In 1950 its terms of reference were revised and, while continuing to provide emergency relief for children during catastrophes, it placed emphasis on long-range programmes of child-care, particularly in developing countries. In 1953, the General Assembly voted unanimously to continue UNICEF for an indefinite period.

The aim of UNICEF is to promote permanent health, nutrition and welfare services for children through programmes which countries can continue after the initial stimulus provided by the Fund. UNICEF aid is provided only at the request of governments, and those requesting it must be prepared to put into the programme amounts at least equal to those received from UNICEF. This requirement encourages serious consideration before requests are made. It doubles the amount of money made available for UNICEF projects and establishes a basis for the continuation of the projects after the UNICEF aid is terminated.

The Fund is financed through voluntary contributions from governments and private associations. Since the inception of UNICEF in 1946, Canada has contributed about \$23.3 million. In 1968-69 individual Canadians contributed approximately \$1.7 million and the Canadian Government maintained its annual contribution of \$1 million. The Governmental contribution for 1969-70, from preliminary estimates, will be in the order of \$1.2 million.

Suggestions for Further Reading:

Reference Papers (available from Information Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa).

1. Reference Paper #69, The Department of External Affairs
2. Reference Paper #85, Canada and the International Labour Organization
3. Reference Paper #87, Canada and the World Meteorological Organization
4. Reference Paper #88, Canada and ICAO
5. Reference Paper #91, Canada and the World Health Organization
6. Reference Paper #121, Food and Agriculture Organization

Others (available through the Queen's Printer).

1. Annual Reports of the Department of External Affairs. (Note relevant Bibliographies).