

of science and technology. One area singled out for immediate exploration was the large-scale desalinization of water for agriculture.

The work carried out by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 1965 was mostly organizational in character;<sup>1</sup> the establishment by the Trade and Development Board of its four main committees, the selection of Geneva as the headquarters of UNCTAD, and the building up of a secretariat. To the disappointment of the developing countries, it did not make much headway over matters of substance within its purview. This lack of progress reflected, in part, serious differences of views between them and the developed countries about the role and objectives of UNCTAD, as well as the complexities of the problems involved. Nonetheless, some ground was gained in an intangible way during the year in fostering an increased awareness and understanding of the needs and difficulties of the developing countries. As the Canadian delegate to the first meeting of the Board noted, UNCTAD had undeniably succeeded in concentrating attention "on the contribution that trade can make to development (and has made us) more familiar with and better prepared to come to grips with the manifold aspects of the problem than we were a year ago". Governments became more seized of the challenge of under-development and the central idea of the "mounting gap" between development requirements and the income of developing countries gained increasing acceptance. In 1965, it became clear that the task was to transfer the dialogue that took place at the first conference from the level of general conceptions to the level of specific tasks and of shaping institutions and work programmes along the lines of what seems attainable in the period immediately at hand.

The expansion of United Nations activities in the field of economic development has not been accomplished without a certain cleavage between North and South, between the numerically-superior developing countries whose influence rests on their broad voting base and the relatively few developed countries which have to provide most of the resources to implement the programmes proposed. In their understandable desire for a quick and dramatic change in their lot, the developing countries have on occasion imposed decisions on the United Nations system which the developed countries have been reluctant to accept or implement as quickly or as extensively as the developing countries would like. The lack of common ground between the hurrying and the hurried was particularly pronounced in 1964 at UNCTAD and at the meetings of its Board in 1965. By the end of the twentieth session in December, however, there seemed to be widespread recognition that resolutions meant little in effective terms unless they also carried a measure of

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<sup>1</sup>See Page 42.