

third development in the economic field is the consideration which is being given to the possibility of establishing a Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development (SUNFED).

In the social field, there was progress in the co-ordination of the social projects of the Council with those of the Specialized Agencies. The treatment of social problem had been brought into a better balance with the treatment of economic problems; increasing attention had been given to the inter-dependence of economic and social progress. These developments were assessed in an "International Survey of Programmes of Social Development" prepared at the request of ECOSOC by the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO, as a supplement to the "Preliminary Report on the World Social Situation". It demonstrated the value of establishing programmes on a firm basis in the community with the direct participation of the people themselves. Concerning one of the most practical and successful undertakings of the United Nations which was initiated by ECOSOC, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Canadian Delegation expressed its gratification at the tenth session over the number of projects which were becoming an integral part of the programmes of the governments of the recipient countries and, when announcing Canada's increased contribution to UNICEF, noted as an encouraging development the increase both in the number of contributing countries and in the size of their contributions.

Other social and humanitarian activities in which progress was especially noticeable were in the fields of advisory social welfare services; training of welfare personnel; financing of housing and community improvement programmes; and international definition of standards and levels of living. The importance of the work of the Population Commission, of which Canada is a member, was reflected by the World Population Conference held in Rome in 1954, and of the work of the United Nations in the penal and penitentiary field by the United Nations World Congress on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, held in 1955. The General Assembly began at its tenth session its examination of the draft Convention on the Nationality of Married Women and on the two controversial draft Covenants on Human Rights, to which reference is made later in this section.

Economic Questions

Economic Development of Under-developed Countries

Over the last 18 months the United Nations has continued to sponsor programmes to assist the economic development of the less developed countries of the world; and it has also given thought and serious study to proposals for expanding this assistance. While Canadian interest in and contributions toward the economic development of the less developed countries has not been limited to United Nations programmes, Canada gave substantial assistance to the United Nations programmes and took part in discussions of the new plans which are under study. Over the past several years there has been discussion¹ about the possible establishment of an international finance corporation, and this proposal has now been adopted with the drafting of the Charter of the Corporation and the opening up of that document for signature and acceptance.

Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development

The proposal to assist further the economic development of the under-developed countries by establishing a Special United Nations Fund for Econ-

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1953-54*, pp. 39-40.