

where they could be examined, made public, and co-ordinated; where any suspicion that they were being used for political purposes could be challenged, and exposed as true or false.

This procedure would have the advantages of letting the world know what was being done, and by whom. It would separate the propaganda chaff from the wheat. It would also expose the motives of any nation which refused to co-operate with the United Nations in this way."

In the Canadian reply to the Secretary-General's questionnaire on SUNFED, it was suggested that the proposed SUNFED might "facilitate the co-ordination of aid programmes by collecting and disseminating information, in particular by publishing annual reports on the aid supplied by each of its members—whether that aid is supplied bilaterally through some other international organization or through the special fund".

At the twenty-second session of ECOSOC the Canadian Delegation had an opportunity of discussing with other delegations the idea of having the United Nations collect and publish information about all types of international economic assistance. During the eleventh session of the General Assembly Canada and Norway introduced a resolution to this effect which gained a wide measure of support. The resolution which was finally adopted by the Assembly, with the support of all countries except the Soviet bloc, requested ECOSOC to consider the question of the "collection of information concerning international economic assistance for the less developed countries on the basis of such information as the Secretary-General may provide".

International Trade and International Commodity Problems

Under the aegis of ECOSOC, multilateral negotiations for the establishment of an International Trade Organization (ITO)¹ were begun in 1946, including negotiations for a charter (the Havana Charter) containing general principles regarding economic and trade policy. The ITO has not, however, come into existence. A General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was negotiated in 1947 outside the framework of the United Nations, and has become the most important international instrument for trade co-operation. In 1954, the Contracting Parties to GATT drew up an agreement for the establishment of a permanent organization—the Organization for Trade Co-operation (OTC)—for the administration of GATT. The agreement on the OTC is awaiting approval by governments.

A good deal of attention has been given in a number of United Nations organizations to the special problems of primary commodities. These problems are of particular interest to under-developed countries whose economies are dependent on the export of primary products which are subject to sudden and substantial price fluctuations. Special study is given to commodity problems in the United Nations Commission on International Commodity Trade² the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems³, and the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrange-

¹See Chapter IV "Specialized Agencies" below, p. 74.

²See above, p. 45.

³See "Food and Agriculture Organization" below, pp. 80-82.