

the fifteenth session of the General Assembly to elect a successor to the seat vacated by the Netherlands on December 31, 1960. When the Council convened the Soviet Union drew attention to the provisions of the Charter and challenged the legality of an ECOSOC meeting while there were 17 elected members. Although the United States and British Delegates took issue with this view, a Secretariat legal opinion placed the onus on all United Nations members to decide whether the Council could constitutionally meet with only 17 members. The Council decided, therefore, to postpone substantive meetings until the eighteenth member had been elected. On April 18, 1961, Italy was elected by the General Assembly to fill the vacancy and the Council held its thirty-first session from April 19 to 28. Canada was represented at both the April 4 meeting and at the thirty-first session by an observer.

Due to the delay in the opening of the thirty-first session, the Council did not consider all the items on its agenda and, for the first time, held a contested election for the Presidency. Considerable time was devoted to discussion of questions relating to the economic development of less developed countries, especially those items which dealt with the problem of price fluctuations of primary products, international economic co-operation, the principles which should underlie industrialization, population growth and the methods of providing increased and flexible assistance to the less developed countries. In the social field, the Council endorsed the Unesco report on the development of information media in the less developed countries and recommended preparations for an international conference on travel and tourism. Elections to the functional commissions were held at the thirty-first session.

The thirty-second session of the Council was held in Geneva from July 4 to August 4, 1961. A Canadian observer was also present at this session. A number of important questions were before the Council, including a proposal for a world food programme, the difficulties of the producers of primary products, sovereignty over natural resources and a proposal for the creation of a United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). Considerable attention was also devoted to the use of volunteers in United Nations and Specialized Agencies technical assistance programmes and a proposal for a United Nations conference on the application of science and technology to the less developed areas. The Council placed increased emphasis on the desirability of co-ordinating and integrating the various United Nations and agency programmes in the technical assistance field. There was also considerable discussion on the questions of centralization versus decentralization of technical assistance activities and responsibilities and the supervision of technical assistance programmes by the Technical Assistance Committee.

At the thirty-second session, the Council emphasized the importance of social aspects of development. It considered the "Report on the World Social