

Aid for Children

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was set up in December 1946, and began operations in 1947. Its immediate aim was to continue the assistance previously given to the children of war-devastated lands by UNRRA. The work has since been extended in scope and area.

From the beginning Canada has been closely associated with UNICEF's activities. The Canadian representative on the Executive Board of UNICEF has been Mrs. D. B. Sinclair of the Department of National Health and Welfare. Chairman of the Executive Board during 1951, she was elected to this office again for 1952. Canada has been a member of the Board since the inception of UNICEF.

From the establishment of the Fund until the beginning of 1952 the Canadian Government had contributed \$7,293,000 (United States dollar equivalent) and private contributions from Canadians amounted to \$1,486,000: a total of \$8,779,000. In July of this year Parliament approved a Canadian Government contribution to UNICEF for 1952 of a further \$500,000 (Canadian). Canada has been the third largest contributor to the Fund, only the United States and Australia having given more. On a per capita basis Canada ranks as fourth among UNICEF contributors, coming after Iceland, New Zealand and Australia. A very large number of countries which receive UNICEF aid have also made contributions to the Fund.

The Children's Fund has proved to be one of the most successful and at the same time one of the most popular undertakings of the United Nations. Evidence of public appreciation in Canada of the valuable work accomplished by UNICEF is the fact that whereas internationally the general relation of private to governmental contributions to UNICEF is in the ratio of one to ten, in Canada two private dollars have been given for every ten government dollars. UNICEF was the only United Nations body on whose behalf the United Nations Association of Canada made representations in 1952 before the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs.

Since UNICEF had been established as an emergency organization to meet the desperate needs of children in the aftermath of war, the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1950 took up the question whether the emergency for which UNICEF had been established had passed or whether the Fund should continue its work. The Assembly decided that UNICEF should carry on for a further three years and that the Assembly should review this question at its session in 1953. Following instructions from the fifth session of the Assembly, UNICEF has shifted its emphasis from post-war emergency feeding to long-range programmes designed to assist governments in developing their own child health and welfare services. These long-range programmes fall under the following main headings: