

does not depend only on the availability of national resources; it is also a function of the number of initiatives that are taken at the international level. In this respect I am pleased to report to the Committee that, at the recent Commonwealth Conference on education, Canada promised to provide teacher training for students from Colombo Plan countries under available Colombo Plan technical assistance funds.

Many points other than those with which I have concerned myself so far would warrant analysis. The scope of this statement compels me, unfortunately, to comment briefly on only two other sections of Chapter VI, i.e., those on UNICEF and the international control of narcotics.

Although Canada left the Executive Board of UNICEF at the end of 1958 after a long period of membership that began in 1946, my country has followed with great interest and has continued to support wholeheartedly the work accomplished by the United Nations Children's Fund. My Delegation feels that the Fund's contribution to the promotion of child welfare around the world should be fully commended by all. We have been particularly gratified at the praise which has continued to be bestowed upon UNICEF as an international agency exempt from political controversy.

All of us have witnessed the growth of this organization from an emergency programme of limited applications concerned with post-war Europe into a body collaborating with governments in initiating action of a continuing and expanding nature. In this connection, we have noted with particular interest the increased recognition by the UNICEF Executive Board of the importance of aid to encourage the training of national staff for the direction and supervision of certain programmes. We are referring to those programmes which aim at the betterment of those local institutions which can provide the education, especially of mothers, in child care, nutrition and disease prevention and control. This encouragement given to the development of such permanent services at the local level is gradually establishing UNICEF as a valuable complement to other technical assistance programmes. UNICEF is thereby fully manifesting that degree of flexibility necessary in helping various governments to deal with the diverse interrelated needs of children arising from hunger, disease and ignorance.

Nevertheless, we agree with the view of the Executive Board that the stress should remain on the eradication of those diseases which largely affect children, on basic maternal and child-welfare services, and on child nutrition. We say this because we are extremely conscious of the truly enormous task which remains to be done before children are assured of at least freedom from hunger and those diseases that breed in poverty and dirt and because we are also painfully aware of the growing disproportion between the 55 million children and mothers benefiting from UNICEF aided projects and the 550 million children in the countries receiving UNICEF aid.

Canada will, of course, maintain its interest in the Fund. We shall also strive for wide-spread support of this co-operative endeavour for which United Nations member states pool resources in order to reach common objectives.