

for a body which would be responsible to the General Assembly for the whole field of economic and social policy and would be the overall co-ordinator of the economic, social and relief programmes carried out by the United Nations and by the Specialized Agencies. The Economic and Social Council both initiates and co-ordinates economic, social and relief programmes. It receives regular reports from the Specialized Agencies and makes an annual report on its work to the General Assembly.

The Council held its 27th and 28th sessions in 1959. Canada was represented at the 27th session, which was held in Mexico City from April 7 to April 24, by Dr. R. P. Vivian, M.P., who attended as an official observer. The major question confronting the 27th session of ECOSOC was the economic development of under-developed countries, which was discussed in terms of industrialization, land reform, and sources of energy. A good deal of attention was given to means of intensifying and systematizing United Nations efforts to promote rapid industrialization and to relate it more closely to the technical assistance activities of the United Nations. A review was held of work undertaken by the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies concerned to support national measures of land reform. The stimulus which some of these measures give to capital formation and increased production was recognized. In the field of energy resources, reports on recent developments and on new sources of energy were discussed. The Council also examined a report of the Symposium on the Development of Petroleum Resources of Asia and the Far East.

In the social sphere, the Council in 1959 reviewed the work of both its Population and Social Commissions. There was a general awareness of the effect that the rise in population throughout the world will have on economic and social development, including its implications for less developed countries. The Council had for consideration the second "International Survey of Programmes of Social Development" prepared by the Secretary-General in co-operation with ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO. This report reviewed the efforts made at national and international levels throughout the four-year period 1953 to 1957 to maintain and improve social conditions on a wide variety of fronts. The Council noted the report and requested the Secretary-General to collect information from member states concerning experience gained, difficulties encountered and lessons learned in the field of social development which would be of assistance to under-developed countries in planning and carrying out relevant programmes. In the field of Human Rights, the Council was primarily concerned with an operational programme of advisory services, reports and studies on progress in this field. It approved plans for holding further regional seminars.

The Council's annual review of the development and co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies in the economic, social and human rights fields was held at the 28th session. The review was assisted by the personal participation of the Secretary-General and the heads of many of the Specialized Agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and was considered very beneficial. The Secretary-General submitted an appraisal of United Nations programmes for the next five years. Proposals for more concerted action by Specialized Agencies were approved.

Economic Questions

Economic Development of Under-Developed Countries

In accordance with the United Nations Charter, member states are pledged to take action in co-operation with the Organization to promote "higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and