

THE CANADA-UNESCO FELLOWSHIPS

At the Third General Conference of UNESCO, held at Beirut, Lebanon, in the autumn of 1948, the Chairman of the Canadian Delegation said that "reconstruction is a field in which Canadians have tangibly expressed interest during the past years by means of a campaign for funds conducted by the Canadian Council for Reconstruction through UNESCO which yielded more than a million dollars. But we think the time may be approaching when to retain the sharp distinction between reconstruction and other constructive effort will be a handicap to the general programme." The programme of the C.C.R.U. adopted at the annual conference of the Council in Ottawa in May 1948, provided an opportunity to bridge this gap between the task of intellectual reconstruction and the development of other constructive cultural activities.

At the Beirut Conference, it was agreed that the primary concern of UNESCO should be the programme for the exchange of persons between countries for study and training; and that particular attention should be paid to assisting mature individuals from war devastated countries who would derive the greatest benefit from this programme. Anticipating this decision, the C.C.R.U. had decided several months earlier to allocate the sum of \$182,000 to provide six months of advanced study and travel in Canada for university professors, leaders in the mass media, government administrators, teachers, engineers, scientists, and other individuals occupying responsible positions in countries seriously affected by the war.

The delegates to the Beirut Conference noted with satisfaction the provision of sixty-four Canada-UNESCO Fellowships by the C.C.R.U.; and on the direction of the General Conference, a small committee of experts was appointed to discuss the administration of Fellowships, the establishment of new Fellowships by member states, and related questions. This committee, at an informal conference held at UNESCO House in Paris in September 1949, unanimously resolved to recommend that the administration of the Canada-UNESCO Fellowships project should be deemed worthy of study as a model of how an international exchange programme should be organized by interested member states.

Organization of Project

The Canada-UNESCO Fellowships project, although entirely financed by the C.C.R.U., is nevertheless a co-operative activity in which UNESCO itself plays a prominent part. The recruitment and preliminary screening of the candidates is the responsibility of the Department for the Exchange of Persons of the United Nations, and all successful Canada-UNESCO Fellows are sponsored by UNESCO.

The sixty-four fellowships offered by the Council are available to nationals of fourteen countries: Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, and British Colonial Territories.

Recruitment was carried out by UNESCO in co-operation with the Canadian Missions (or the British Mission or authority where no Canadian Mission is established) and the Ministries of Education in the countries concerned.