

observations by radiosonde to coincide with the surface observations. Investigations were also undertaken on methods of locating thunderstorms and, in collaboration with UNESCO, on conditions for human life in the humid tropics and in arid zones.

Although WMO has no funds of its own for technical assistance, it provides aid to less developed countries through the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (ETAP). In 1955 WMO spent \$242,137 on technical assistance in 23 countries, providing 22 experts and making available study facilities in 36 meteorological offices. In 1956 technical assistance was allocated to 21 countries and included the awarding of 16 new fellowships and providing 17 experts. In addition, in Region IV in which Canada is located, a grant of \$15,000 was given to assist an important International Seminar on Tropical Hurricanes held in February 1956 at Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic, when 56 meteorologists from 18 different countries attended the session. Experts were provided to assist the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua in organizing their national weather services. In other parts of the world meteorological experts were provided for specialized purposes such as locust control, flood forecasting, instrument design, and agricultural meteorology.

## **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development**

### **International Monetary Fund**

**and**

### **International Finance Corporation**

#### **Introduction**

The principal function of the International Bank is to assist in the economic development of its member countries, through the extension of loans for development purposes where private capital is not available on reasonable terms, through the stimulation of private international investment and through the provision of technical assistance. The loans of the International Bank are made from its own capital resources and from the proceeds of its borrowings in the financial markets of the world.

The Fund provides machinery for international consultation and collaboration on monetary, payments and exchange problems. Among its purposes are the promotion of exchange stability, the elimination of exchange restrictions, the establishment of a multilateral system of current payments, and the expansion and balanced growth of international trade. Under certain conditions member countries may draw on the resources of the Fund to assist in dealing appropriately with temporary balance of payments difficulties and for other purposes consistent with the Fund's Articles of Agreement, including support for the introduction or maintenance of convertibility.