

consists of the 18 countries represented on ECOSOC¹. The TAC also considers and makes recommendations concerning policy matter.

The programmes of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies are evolved on the basis of requests by countries for technical assistance, within target figures set by the TAB. To assist in the preparation of the "country programmes", the TAB and many of the Specialized Agencies have representatives located in a number of member countries.

For the 1956 technical assistance programme a total of 71 countries pledged approximately \$28 million to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. Canada's contribution was \$1,800,000 which was an increase of \$300,000 over 1955. Subject to parliamentary appropriations, Canada will contribute to the 1957 programme a sum of \$2 million, and an undertaking has been given that Canada will provide at least a similar order of support for the 1958 and 1959 programmes. The total pledges of assistance for the 1957 programme amount to about \$30 million, including over \$14 million from the United States and a pledge of the equivalent of \$1 million from the U.S.S.R.

During the year there was considerable discussion of a report issued by the TAB entitled "The Forward Look", which summarized the programme, appraised current problems and arrived at conclusions regarding the future of the programme. Certain of the conclusions of the report would involve changes in present methods of operation; others would require an expansion of funds available for United Nations technical assistance programmes. It was suggested, for example, that the status and role of the TAB country representatives required a clearer definition; another conclusion was that there should be more generous provision of equipment and supplies to supplement assistance in the form of expert advice; a further conclusion was that increased funds would be required to meet an increasing number of requests for assistance, and target figures of \$50 million and \$100 million were mentioned. In discussions of "The Forward Look" in the Technical Assistance Committee², the Canadian Delegation welcomed the report as a valuable contribution to a better understanding and the more efficient operation of technical assistance programmes, but the members of the TAC generally avoided commitments regarding the financial conclusions of the report.

Considerable interest has also been expressed in proposals for establishing an international civil service, consisting of experts employed by the United Nations on long term or permanent contracts, and specially trained for service in under-developed areas. Mr. L. B. Pearson put this idea forward in a speech to the Canadian Red Cross Society in Toronto in March 1956, and the United Nations Secretary-General in an address to the International Law Association in Montreal later developed the idea in more concrete terms. These proposals obviously call for most serious consideration since they are aimed at overcoming a number of present difficulties such as those experienced in recruiting highly specialized experts for short-term assignments, giving continuity to programmes, and obtaining the full

¹At the eleventh session of the General Assembly Canada co-sponsored a resolution, which was adopted, to increase the membership of the TAC from 18 to 24.

²The TAC met in Geneva during July and August 1956, at the same time as the twenty-second session of ECOSOC.