

bly, which meets in the autumn, and it is in this body that Canadian policies may be defined.²⁴

4. Among the principal items under consideration is a review of development and co-ordination of all the programmes and activities of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies. This review is undertaken annually to achieve the most effective utilization of the resources and expertise available to the Organization. The Council will consider the reports of four of its functional commissions — the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women (to which Canada has been elected, term of office to commence next year), the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (of which Canada is a permanent member), and the Social Commission. In connexion with the latter the Council will have before it a report on the world social situation on which a wide-ranging discussion is expected but on which the delegations will not be expected to take positions involving policy decisions.

5. The Council will also consider the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. There are two main issues: the possible extension in time of the High Commissioner's mandate and his shortage of funds. The Delegation has been instructed not to commit Canada to any further expenditures until the question of refugees can be considered by Cabinet.

6. Among the economic items on the agenda there are two which may give rise to controversy. One of these involves a long-standing proposal to establish a "Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development" (SUNFED), to which member countries would contribute funds (a total amount of \$600 million has been suggested) for the financing of basic development projects in under-developed countries.²⁵ This proposal, which has been debated and examined many times in United Nations forums, is supported by most of the under-developed countries and some "advanced" countries such as the Netherlands. The United States and United Kingdom have led the opposition to SUNFED for somewhat differing reasons. The United States prefers to keep its funds for international assistance under its own control; the United Kingdom is more concerned about a possible extension of its external financial commitments. Neither the United States nor United Kingdom have shown any indication of changing their positions. The Delegation at the 24th Session is being instructed to maintain the position on SUNFED taken by other Canadian delegations during the past year, i.e. that we could consider Canadian participation only when sufficient support was forthcoming from the major potential contributors, and that we would wish to be assured that the administrative and operational aspects of the proposed fund were satisfactory. The Delegation has been asked to continue to do what it can to prevent the issue from dividing Western countries and the under-developed countries.

7. The other possibly contentious issue involves international trade in primary commodities. Many under-developed countries are heavily dependent on the export of a single, or of a very few, primary products; and these products are subject to violent fluctuations in price and volume. The under-developed countries have therefore been seeking some general over-all plan for commodity arrangements which could provide a solution to their difficul-

²⁴ A cause d'une erreur typographique évidente, l'original de ce document comporte deux paragraphes identiques numérotés (4). Un de ces paragraphes a été supprimé ici.

Due to an apparent typographical error, the original copy of this document has two identical paragraphs numbered (4). One of these duplicate paragraphs has been removed here.

²⁵ Pour les documents concernant SUNFED avant le 31 décembre 1958, voir la Section E du présent chapitre.

See Section E of this chapter for documents relating to SUNFED prior to December 31, 1958.