

by United Nations bodies. It compiles instructions for Canadian delegations to sessions of the General Assembly, of the Economic and Social Council, and of some of the Specialized Agencies, and it reviews, in its function as co-ordinator, the instructions for delegations to other United Nations bodies. It also prepares, for the information of Parliament and of the Canadian public, periodic reports on Canadian activities in the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, for example, the annual publication *Canada and the United Nations*, and the section on the United Nations in the Department's monthly bulletin *External Affairs*.

The main function of the United Nations Division, therefore, is one of co-ordination rather than one of recommending policy. Nevertheless, there are several sorts of matters in which the United Nations Division itself accepts initial responsibility. These include preparations for international meetings and the selection of delegations (in co-operation with the Department's International Conferences Section), elections to United Nations bodies and the election of officers within those bodies, the constitution of the United Nations and its membership, various administrative and financial questions (in conjunction with the Department of Finance), and a wide variety of incidental short-term matters. Of the Specialized Agencies, three have been assigned directly to the United Nations Division: the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, and the Universal Postal Union. (Six other agencies — the Bank, the Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Telecommunications Union, and the World Meteorological Organization — have been assigned to the Economic Division of the Department of External Affairs, while the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization comes under the Information Division.)

#### **Inter-departmental Consultation**

Inter-departmental consultation is carried out in a number of ways. In addition to the usual exchange of correspondence and telephone calls, the following devices have been developed:

(a) **Ad Hoc Meetings**

These are convened at the suggestion of External Affairs, or of any other interested department, to deal with specific problems. Officials of each department dealing with those problems attend. Much use is made of this device, particularly when questions are being first explored. It has the great advantage of being flexible and capable of producing speedy action.

(b) **Inter-Departmental Committees**

These are usually established by Cabinet direction and are composed of deputy ministers or their representatives. Only a few such committees have been set up as a direct result of Canadian participation in the United Nations; an example is the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Food and Agriculture Organization. In general, however, United Nations questions are referred whenever necessary to existing inter-departmental committees whose responsibilities are not confined to United Nations matters. Examples are the inter-departmental committees which deal with external trade, civil aviation and immigration.

(c) **Inter-Departmental Group on Technical Assistance**

All Canadian activities with regard to technical assistance, either under the programme of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, under the Colombo Programme for Technical Co-operation, or in response to direct requests from foreign governments, are co-ordinated by a Technical Co-operation Service. This Service is a part of the International Economic and Technical Co-operation Division in the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce. The Director of the Division reports to an Inter-Departmental