

The membership of ICAO has increased from an original 26 states to 144, a large number of which are developing countries.

Budget and finances

ICAO's budget for 1978 was \$22,823,000 (U.S.), of which \$16,490,000 was paid by the assessed contributions of members. Canada's share was \$500,100 or 3.17 per cent. In addition, Canada, as a party to the 1956 agreement on the joint financing of air-navigation services in Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands, contributed about \$800,000 in 1978 to support these operations.

As host to ICAO, Canada has undertaken a number of responsibilities *vis-à-vis* the Organization. The Canadian Government assists ICAO with the rent for accommodation at the headquarters premises in Montreal.

Major programs and priorities and means of action

In the technical field, ICAO seeks international agreement on the requirements of international civil aviation for facilities and services, on the means of providing them and on standardization of equipment and procedures wherever this is necessary for the sake of safety and regularity. These agreements generally take the form of annexes to the Chicago convention. The Organization

also collects, analyses and makes available to member states a vast amount of information on the technical aspects of civil aviation, and provides assistance to members in the training of personnel.

While not involved directly in the negotiation by member states of agreements to further the exchange of commercial rights for the operation of international air services, ICAO studies and seeks agreement on other questions of an economic nature whenever such agreement will facilitate the international operations of air-lines. Similarly, it deals with legal questions in cases in which the differing positions of national codes of law are likely to handicap air operations. The results of its legal work usually appear in the form of international conventions open for ratification by all member states.

In the field of technical assistance, ICAO serves as an executing agency on behalf of the United Nations Development Program for projects involving civil aviation. ICAO experts have provided technical assistance, including training, in almost every branch of civil aviation, and 600 to 700 fellowships are awarded annually. The Organization also sponsors a number of regional