

based their case on the observation of the Advisory Committee that "information services must be held subordinate to the organization's primary responsibilities in the political, economic and social fields". Support for the full appropriations came mainly from smaller countries which stressed their reliance on the United Nations information programme and commended it as a means for furthering international understanding and co-operation. The estimate was finally approved after adoption of a resolution, submitted by Australia, requesting the Advisory Committee and the Secretary-General to review the public information activities of the United Nations and to recommend to the Sixth Session of the General Assembly ways for obtaining substantial economies. While no specific amount was referred to in the resolution, the Australian Representative suggested that it should be possible to reduce expenditures in this field by \$250,000 during 1952 without any serious impairment of fundamental activities.

### **The Specialized Agencies**

In a similar manner, the budgets of the various Specialized Agencies were scrutinized carefully by their respective conferences. In general, the discussion followed patterns very similar to those in the United Nations, with the emphasis on concentration of resources and the achievement of economies through more efficient planning and implementation of the various projects. Canadian delegations to UNESCO and WHO particularly stressed their belief that these organizations were dispersing their efforts over too many fields and were not accomplishing as much as they should with the funds expended.

In their further quest for economies, many of the Agencies considered the desirability of reducing the frequency and duration of their annual conferences. In the past, all the conferences have been held annually (excepting the congresses of the Universal Postal Union and the International Telecommunications Union, which meet every five years). However, during 1950, the Food and Agriculture Organization, with many of its early organizational problems resolved and anxious to reduce its demands on member governments, decided to meet (in regular session) only once every two years. For similar reasons, WHO and UNESCO are also considering biennial instead of annual conferences.

The general conferences of some of the Agencies (in particular UNESCO, WHO and FAO) were faced with peculiar problems because of the failure of some governments to pay their contributions. As a result of these arrears, the funds available for carrying out the programmes have not been adequate. To meet this situation, the conferences, while approving their respective programmes, stipulated that their Directors-General should limit expenditures to "foreseeable income" during the ensuing financial year. Thus, although full programmes have been drawn up and approved, they will not be proceeded with if they require expenditures beyond the anticipated financial resources of the organization.

In accordance with the requirements of Article 17 (3) of the United Nations Charter, the budgets of the Agencies were examined