

To provide funds for technical assistance the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948 allocated over a quarter of a million dollars of the regular budget to provide fellowships, expert advice and other types of technical assistance to the under-developed countries of the world. The following year the amount was doubled and the programme was put on a continuing basis. Similarly, varying amounts have been reserved in the annual budgets of the Specialized Agencies, for the past few years, for the same purposes.

One of the most striking examples of technical assistance, rendered jointly by the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, was a mission of international experts, sent to Bolivia in 1950 to carry out a complete survey of that country's public administration, economy and natural resources. The success achieved by this mission, which was headed by Dr. H.L. Keenleyside, a former Canadian Deputy Minister of Resources and Development, was so apparent that it resulted in the adoption by the Government of Bolivia of many of the far reaching measures recommended in its report. These included the temporary appointment within the Bolivian Government of certain international experts of the United Nations who worked in close collaboration with senior government officials of the country.

POINT FOUR PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED STATES

As the success of these early programmes had demonstrated the need for larger and more comprehensive programmes of technical assistance it became apparent that the problem of raising the standard of living of more than half the world's population would have to be tackled on a vaster scale. On January 20, 1949, President Truman recognized the urgency of the situation when, in a message to Congress, he stated that the United States

"must embark on a bold new programme for making the benefits of our scientific advances and industrial progress available for the improvement and growth of the under-developed areas."

President Truman went on to say:

"We invite other countries to pool their technological resources in this undertaking. Their contributions will be warmly welcomed. This should be a co-operative enterprise in which all nations work together through the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, whenever practicable."

Since this statement was the fourth point of the President's survey of United States Foreign Policy, United States activities in the field of technical assistance have since become popularly known as the "Point Four Programme".

The Point Four Programme was set up by the Technical Co-operation Administration, under the direction of the Department of State. Through the Technical Co-operation Administration, United States aid, in the form of grants for economic development and the provision of technical assistance, has been extended to under-developed countries throughout the world. Because of its natural interest in the nations of South America, a large portion of United States aid has been devoted to