

put before the Committee by ten countries, including the United Kingdom and the United States, which affirmed the importance attached by the Assembly to the abolition of all forced labour systems, invited the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and ILO to give early consideration to the Committee's report and requested the Secretary-General to ask governments which had not yet provided the Committee with the necessary information to do so before the seventeenth session of ECOSOC. The resolution was approved by the Assembly in plenary by 40 votes to 5 (the Soviet bloc) with 12 abstentions (the Arab bloc, India, South Africa and Argentina).

The Economic Development of Under-Developed Countries

Aside from the technical assistance programme, which was dealt with in the November issue of *External Affairs*, the principal matters under the heading of economic development discussed at the eighth session of the General Assembly were the question of the establishment of a special United Nations fund for economic development and the status of the proposal for an international finance corporation. These two projects have now been under study for several years and the question to be decided at the eighth session was whether steps could or should be actively taken towards the establishment of either or both of the proposed institutions.

A Committee of Nine Experts had reported in March 1953, on the Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development. The report was considered at the sixteenth session of the Economic and Social Council which transmitted it to the General Assembly without specific comment except a recommendation, based on a United States proposal, that member states consider joining in a declaration that they stood ready to ask their peoples, when sufficient progress had been made in internationally supervised world-wide disarmament, to devote a proportion of the savings therefrom to an international fund, within the framework of the United Nations, to assist development and reconstruction in under-developed countries. This proposal was re-introduced by the United States at the eighth session and was adopted without negative vote. It was accompanied by statements, from the United States and the other industrialized countries which supported it, including Canada, that owing to the heavy burden of defence expenditures, they were unable at the present time to consider contributing to a development fund. In these circumstances, the countries which had hoped to initiate action at this session to establish the fund did not press their plans but instead supported a resolution which referred the report of the Committee of Nine to governments for comment and appointed Monsieur Raymond Scheyven of Belgium to examine these comments with the assistance of the Secretary-General, and where he judged necessary, to request elaboration of them "if desirable by direct consultation with governments". He is to make an interim report to the eighteenth session of the Economic and Social Council in the summer of 1954 and a final report to the ninth session of the General Assembly. This resolution was also passed without negative vote, Canada voting in favour.

Within Framework of U.N.

The proposed international finance corporation would be an organization, within the framework of the United Nations, which would help to stimulate private investments in its member countries by bringing together investment