

of endeavour; however, they have developed co-ordinating machinery as well as a number of co-operative undertakings¹. The most important co-operative undertaking in which the Agencies take part is the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance; in 80 countries and territories, seven of the Specialized Agencies assist the governments of the lands; more than 700 experts sent by the Specialized Agencies were at work in the field, and about 350 persons from under-developed areas were awarded fellowships for advanced training in special skills needed for the economic and social development of their countries.

The most serious problem encountered by many of the Specialized Agencies is that the responsibilities they have assumed are so vast, and the opportunities for useful work so numerous, that great difficulty is experienced in setting limits to and priorities for their programmes. This has had to be done however, since in the past few years there has been an unwillingness on the part of some members of the United Nations to supply yearly increases in the budgets of the Specialized Agencies². Many countries, including Canada, have urged the Specialized Agencies to concentrate on those undertakings which will have the most significant and far-reaching results.

The work of the Specialized Agencies is extensive and complex, and is described in detail in the publications issued by each Agency. The account which follows gives only in summary form a survey of their activities for the 18 months under review.

International Labour Organization

The International Labour Organization was established in 1919, primarily for the purpose of improving living and working conditions. Originally associated with the League of Nations at Geneva, in 1946 it became one of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations. Among the specific objectives of the ILO are the establishment of fair wage practices; the regulation of hours and conditions of work; the recognition of the right of collective bargaining; the extension of workmen's compensation, sickness insurance, unemployment insurance, weekly rest and holidays with pay; protection against accidents and occupational diseases; equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value; maternity protection and protection of children and young workers.

The constitution of the ILO contains unique provisions for "tripartite" participation by representatives of governments, employers and employees from its 70 member states. The ILO has three main organs: the Governing Body which is the executive council, consisting of 40 members (20 government, 10 employer and 10 worker members); the annual International Labour Conference or the policy making body and to which each member nation may send four delegates (2 government, 1 employer and 1 worker) plus technical advisers; and the International Labour Office, under a Director-General, with headquarters in Geneva, which is the permanent secretariat of ILO. Canada occupies one of the ten non-elective seats on the Governing Body reserved for the governments of the ten "states of chief industrial importance". Mr. A. H. Brown, Canadian Deputy Minister of Labour, was elected Chairman of the Governing Body for the year 1955-1956. Branch offices represent the ILO in various parts of the world, including a Canadian branch in Ottawa,

¹See "Questions of Co-ordination and relations with the Specialized Agencies" above, p. 61 and also "Technical Assistance above, pp. 38-39.

²See "Cost of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies" below, pp. 89-90.