

United Nations Development Programme

Over the years since their establishment, the functions and responsibilities of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA), which provides experts and training fellowships to developing countries, and the Special Fund, which finances pre-investment projects, have become so closely interrelated that it was decided in 1965 to consolidate them into one voluntary programme to be known as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Since the general proposal had already met with widespread approval, the debate in the Second Committee centred on a Soviet draft resolution which would have permitted the use of UNDP funds for extensive capital investment as well as for technical assistance and pre-investment work — a proposal successfully resisted by a number of delegations, including Canada, which considered that this field was better left to the capital-financing agencies already in operation within the United Nations system. The Committee also dealt at length with the question of the size and composition of the Governing Council of UNDP and agreed (after rejecting a proposal from Canada and other Western countries that its 36 members be divided equally between donor and recipient countries) that it be composed of 37 members, 14 of whom would be drawn from the Western group and 3 from the Eastern European group. An annual target of \$200 million in voluntary contributions was requested for the unified development programme, to which Canada pledged, for 1966, \$9.5 million (Canadian), an increase from \$7.325 million (Canadian) contributed in 1965 to both EPTA and the Special Fund. The consolidation of these two programmes should, in the words of the Canadian Delegate on the Second Committee, “eliminate duplication, strengthen the impact of the assistance provided, speed up the implementation and evaluation of projects, and ensure that the assistance available is used for priority projects in countries which are making determined efforts to accelerate their rate of growth”.

World Food Programme

Of particular interest to Canada, which in 1961 initiated its establishment on an experimental basis by the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization, was the decision by the Second Committee to continue the World Food Programme (WFP) as long as “multilateral food aid is desirable and feasible”. The WFP has employed contributions of food, cash and services to implement economic and social development projects as well as to relieve emergency needs and to assist in pre-school and school feeding. The Committee also approved a second resolution which requested the Secretary-