

REFERENCE PAPERS

INFORMATION DIVISION DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 93

(Revised February 1964)

CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Each of the 111 members of the United Nations is required to pay an annual assessment, which represents that country's share of the organization's expenses. In 1963, Canada's share was 3.12 per cent or \$2.5 million of the regular United Nations budget of \$78.6 million. In addition, Canada and all other members are assessed to cover the costs of the United Nations peace-keeping operations in the Middle East and in the Congo (UNEF and ONUC). It is estimated that, in 1964, Canada's share of the regular budget of approximately \$86.5 million will be approximately \$2.7 million and that its peace-keeping assessment is likely to be about \$1.3 million.

During the period 1945-63, Canada paid assessments of about \$25.3 million to the regular budget of the United Nations and approximately \$12.2 million for the ONUC and UNEF peace-keeping operations. In the same period Canada made voluntary contributions to special United Nations programmes, such as the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA), the Special Fund, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in the Middle East (UNRWA) and the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency (UNKRA), of approximately \$81 million. In addition, Canada, as a member of each of the 13 Specialized Agencies of the United Nations and of the IAEA, was assessed and made contributions of about \$45 million during this period. Canada's total assessment and contributions to the United Nations and its related bodies, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the United Nations Association in Canada, totalled approximately \$163 million during the period 1945-63. Canada's contribution to these bodies in 1963 is about \$15.3 million.

United Nations concern for political and security questions is widely publicized throughout the world. Peace-keeping operations are, therefore, quite well known to the general public. Regrettably, insufficient public attention to the quieter but nonetheless constructive work of the organization in the economic and social fields. This valuable activity is supplemented by five special programmes (UNRWA, UNHCR, UNICEF, EPTA and the Special Fund) and by the related programmes of the 13 Specialized Agencies and the IAEA. Altogether, their efforts constitute an impressive endeavour to conquer the timeless enemies of mankind - illiteracy, hunger and disease. At the same time, they provide a significant contribution to political and economic stability in the less-developed areas of the world.

A short description of the work of the United Nations in peace-keeping, and of the United Nations, its related programmes and agencies in the economic and social fields, is given below. A statement of Canada's contributions to these important activities is included as Appendix A. Appendix B contains a table showing the pledges made to the operations of the five United Nations special programmes by some of the major contributors to these programmes.