

mental health, nutrition and sanitation. It publishes a number of periodicals to inform national health administrations and scientists of progress in public health; and it maintains an international centre for the compilation and analysis of medical and health statistics.

The twelfth World Health Assembly met in Geneva from May 12 to 29, 1959 and reviewed the expanding activities of the Organization. Among a wide variety of items, it considered a study on an intensified medical research programme prepared by the Director-General and adopted his plan for fostering international medical research for the initial year 1960. The amount of \$500,000 was added to the regular budget for this purpose. The Assembly also considered WHO's activities in the field of environmental sanitation and authorized the establishment of a special account to receive voluntary contributions to provide assistance to governments in planning, preparing for and providing technical assistance in the development of community water supply.

The Assembly expressed its concern over the lack of sufficient funds to finance its malaria eradication programme in 1960 and the following years, and requested the Executive Board and the Director-General to continue their efforts to obtain funds from all possible sources including governments, industry, private organizations and individuals. This programme was initiated in 1955 when it was decided that WHO should "take the initiative, provide technical advice, and encourage research and co-ordination of resources in the implementation of a programme having as its ultimate objective the world-wide eradication of malaria". The total cost of WHO's participation in the programme has recently been estimated to be approximately \$81,000,000. By the end of 1959, \$11,625,476 U.S. had been received in voluntary contributions, and it has been estimated that a further \$7.7 million U.S. are required to finance WHO's operations in 1960 and 1961. Canada has announced its intention of seeking Parliamentary approval for a contribution to the Fund in the amount of \$100,000 for 1960.

The twelfth Assembly approved an agreement between WHO and the International Atomic Energy Agency to promote co-operation and consultation between the two organizations. It also delegated to the Executive Board the authority to act on its behalf concerning any question related to the United Nations Special Fund, and authorized the Director-General to co-operate with the Governing Council of the Special Fund and enter into working arrangements for the provision of services and the execution of health projects.

The Assembly considered the questions of accommodation of the Secretariat and decided to proceed with plans for a new headquarters building. The Swiss Confederation and the Republic and Canton of Geneva have offered to provide a building site and to assist WHO financially by granting loans to a total of \$6,976,744 U.S. The Assembly established a special account (the "Headquarters Building Fund") to receive all sums appropriated, borrowed or contributed for this project.

During this Assembly, an amendment to the WHO Constitution was approved increasing the number of persons designated to serve on the Executive Board from eighteen to twenty-four. The Assembly also approved a budget of \$16,918,700 U.S. for 1960 of which Canada's share is \$483,000 U.S.

The Executive Board of WHO held its 23rd and 24th sessions during 1959. Canada was represented at the 23rd session by Dr. P. E. Moore of the Department of National Health and Welfare who served as Chairman. A Canadian observer attended the 24th session after Canada's three-year term on the Board expired.