

Up to the end of 1959, 2,335 persons had been trained in Canada under the various Canadian bilateral technical assistance programmes and under United Nations, United States and private programmes. Of this total 515 were trained under the programmes of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies. During 1959, 57 new trainees arrived in Canada under United Nations sponsorship. Of 121 Canadian experts serving abroad at the end of 1959, 84 were in the service of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies, bringing the total number of Canadians who have served as United Nations experts to nearly 800.

Regional Economic Commissions

Canada followed more closely the activities of the four Regional Economic Commissions during 1959. Observers were sent to the fourteenth session of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) held in April and to a number of Committee meetings, study groups, and tours organized by that body. The 30 members of the ECE include countries from Western and Eastern Europe and the yearly sessions provide regular opportunities to exchange views and discuss trade and economic problems. The new Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) held its first session in Addis-Ababa, its headquarters, in early January. There are at present fifteen members in the ECA including 6 European Powers which have territorial responsibilities in Africa. Membership is open to countries of the continent of Africa, Madagascar and the other African islands as well as to any State in the area which in the future may become a Member of the United Nations, provided that States which cease to have any territorial responsibilities in Africa cease to be members of the Commission. Although the Union of South Africa is entitled to full membership, it has decided not to join for the present.

The Economic Commission for Latin America held its eighth session in Panama City in May, 1959. ECLA over the last years has been the main forum for discussing proposals for economic co-operation and integration of the area. For the first time Canada was represented by an observer at a plenary session of the Commission.

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) held its fifteenth Conference at Broadbeach, Australia from March 9 to 19 and was attended by a Canadian observer. The main subjects considered by the 1959 conference were economic development, trade problems with emphasis on the effects the formation of the European Common Market will have on commodity trade and the Mekong River project. ECAFE has 24 full members in addition to three associate members.

Programmes of Assistance

Introduction

The United Nations sponsors special programmes of assistance administered by agencies and funds established for the specific purposes of providing aid for children and refugees. These are financed as "extra-budgetary funds" by the voluntary contributions of member states. A short account of three of these special programmes is given in the immediately following sections.

Aid for Children (UNICEF)

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was established by the General Assembly in December 1946 to provide emergency aid to children in war-devastated countries following the termination of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA). In 1950 its terms of reference were revised and, while continuing to provide emergency relief