

- (4) Eight Technical Commissions established by the Congress to study and make recommendations on technical subjects including agricultural, hydrometeorological, synoptic, maritime and aeronautical meteorology and aerology, climatology and instruments and methods of observation.
- (5) A secretariat under the direction of a Secretary-General.

It is necessary, for the practical use and the comparison of observations made at weather stations throughout the world, to standardize and co-ordinate them. Today, all stations make their observations at the same time in all countries of the world with instruments standardized and compared with international standard instruments. Reports from over 200 Canadian stations are included on one cable channel in the international exchange.

However, WMO does not merely draw up regulations. It also carries through projects of interest to all states, calling for action on more than a national scale. The Organization's programme includes assistance to member countries in developing their water resources, participation in tropical research, assistance in overcoming serious world-wide or regional deficiencies in meteorology. Weather forecasting for agriculture, international comparison of meteorological instruments and publication of a wide variety of international manuals and technical studies are other examples of the Organization's work.

WMO also keeps abreast of the spectacular current developments in science and technology and uses them to obtain a better understanding of the atmosphere. Rockets and artificial satellites provide valuable weather information, plans for the use of which in everyday forecasting are already well under way.

WMO also takes part in arid-zone research and contributes to the development of arid lands by studying the climatic conditions knowledge of which would help to improve living conditions in these areas. Locust control and the protection of crops from this pest is a collective undertaking to which WMO contributes. Another important activity of the Organization is to encourage by all possible means scientific research and instruction in meteorology.

An information periodical, the WMO Bulletin, is published in order to keep members and all interested persons informed of the Organization's activities and new developments in meteorology generally.

WMO plays a very active part in the United Nations programmes of technical co-operation and assistance towards economic development. It provides advice to facilitate the establishment and development of national meteorological services. Further, it promotes the training of meteorologists and specialists in all branches of weather science by fellowships, scholarships and training courses. Experts are also appointed to contribute their experience and skills and to co-operate with national authorities in solving the problems of the countries concerned.

New opportunities for an international contribution to large-scale national projects, such as water-resource development plans, have been opened up by the creation of the United Nations Special Fund.

Canadian Participation

The Canadian Meteorological Service has always played an active part in international meteorology. The first meeting of some of the Technical Commissions after the WMO was founded took place in Toronto in 1953. In 1954, and again in 1959, the Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology held sessions in Montreal simultaneously with the Meteorological Division of ICAO.