

representatives of member states during sessions of the General Conference. When they were finished, they were unable to present an attractive picture of UNESCO. However, they conceded that:

These criticisms point perhaps too harshly at the weakness of an organization which . . . is striving to revive . . . one of the . . . finest spiritual traditions of Western Europe: that mutual understanding and sympathy is a moral obligation laid on all rational beings and that the fulfilment of this obligation can be an important contribution to international goodwill and harmony.

In addition, the Commissioners believed that "an honest recognition of the causes of weakness in this important organization must bring home to every thoughtful person his obligation to give the greatest possible support to this cause".

The briefs it received and the public hearings it held gave the Commission an indication of the lively interest with which UNESCO was regarded by some groups in Canada — namely educators, scientists in the exact, natural and social sciences, and scholars in the humanities. Without exception, they deplored the lack of adequate information, which prevented Canadians from having access to UNESCO publications or from attending its lectures, conferences or training courses. Basing their comment on the opinion of the Canadian Social Science Research Council that Canada should implement its membership as effectively as it could, the Commissioners concluded:

UNESCO is doing good work, . . . .  
Canada should co-operate more fully . . .  
and it is undignified for our country to continue as a quasi-member of this excellent organization.

#### **Gradual increase**

This was the beginning of Canada's active participation, starting with projects in education, mass communications, mutual understanding of cultural values by East and West and, finally and above all, the exact and natural sciences and their application to specific problems such as arid zones, the state of hydrology in the world and man and the biosphere — the latter two of which have attained a high degree of scientific maturity and are the object of world-wide interest. It should be pointed out that these two programs involve functional participation by the member states in the UNESCO Secretariat.

Since the inception of the East-West major project, UNESCO has begun a program of cultural studies and promotion.

Canadian participation in this was stimulated by the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies, held in 1970.

The Government decisions related to this increase in involvement creation within the Canada Commission of 1958 of the Commission for UNESCO, the opening of a permanent UNESCO delegation in Paris in 1960. This provided the people of Canada, as well as the agencies of the departments involved, an opportunity to become more involved with UNESCO programs and thereby to participate in defining or achieving these goals when a change in circumstances made this necessary.

Because of the Canadian Commission, the Government of Canada was able to respond substantially to the General's request for proposals from member states for the revision of objectives and methods of preparation of the medium-term plans he had to submit for examination by the General Conference at its eighteenth session.

To complete this review, we point out that members of Canadian delegations have often been called on in other ways at sessions of the Conference. Heads of delegations have been elected on several occasions, and one member has been president of one of the conference commissions. Canada has, been a member of the Conference Bureau, the organ which co-ordinates the work done by the conference, at eight of the 19 sessions. Canadian delegates have been elected to other conference organs at 12 sessions. Finally, Canadians have also been assigned equally important duties in connection with the progress of the work done at the General Conference, with program planning or with the direction of future projects, as was the case at the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the General Conference. From 1968 to 1974, Canada was twice represented on the Executive Board.

In gradually contributing more to the work of UNESCO, Canada has realized definite benefits, though these are sometimes difficult to measure. In his message to the Director-General on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of UNESCO, the Prime Minister of Canada expressed the sentiments of many Canadians when he wrote:

Although the demands of postwar economic reconstruction somewhat reduced the prestige of UNESCO, the Organization nevertheless succeeded in