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CANADA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNITED NATIONS

Each member of the United Nations (and at the present time 80 states belong to it) is required to pay an annual membership fee, usually called an assessment, which represents the country's share of the normal administrative expenditures of the Organization. Last year Canada's share was \$1.6 million, representing 3.63 per cent of the United Nations administrative budget of approximately \$48.6 million.

Canada also pays an annual fee for membership in each of the ten United Nations Specialized Agencies, which are the chief instruments through which members of the United Nations pool their efforts and resources to help achieve higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress throughout the world. In 1956 the total of Canada's assessments for membership in these Agencies was about \$1.4 million.⁽¹⁾

In addition to the assessments for the regular budgets of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, member states have been requested each year to contribute to special programmes of assistance designed to overcome certain acute problems and serious deficiencies which exist in various materially under-developed areas of the world. As money for these special programmes is not available through the regular budgets of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, it has to come from "extra budgetary funds", i.e. those obtained from voluntary contributions made by member states. At the present time the United Nations is sponsoring four of these special programmes -- the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the United Nations Refugee Fund (UNREF) and the United Nations Expanded Technical Assistance Programme (ETAP).

As is understandable, political and security questions before the United Nations are widely publicized in newspapers, magazines, over the radio and on television. Not much public attention is given, however, to the quiet, valuable and constructive work of the Specialized Agencies and that done under the four special programmes, which continues steadily with little fanfare and few newspaper headlines. Through these agencies and programmes the member countries of the United Nations endeavour to conquer the timeless enemies of mankind -- hunger, malnutrition, illiteracy and illness -- and thus to raise the world's living standards and, perhaps, contribute indirectly to political stability. In this aspect of United Nations work there has never been much assistance or co-operation from the communist countries.

(1) These figures do not include Canada's contributions to the capital of two of the Specialized Agencies, the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

A short description of the four special programmes for which the United Nations solicits voluntary contributions is given below, together with a statement of Canadian contributions to these programmes.

UNICEF

The United Nations Children's Fund was created by the General Assembly in December 1946 to conduct emergency relief activities for the special benefit of children and adolescents of countries which were the victims of aggression, for children and adolescents in countries which had been receiving relief from the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and for child health purposes generally. In 1953 the General Assembly decided to continue the Fund for an indefinite period. The emphasis in its operations has in consequence shifted to long-range projects such as the building up of children's health and welfare services, child feeding, and related undertakings. The Fund is at present conducting operations in 95 countries and territories, mainly in under-developed countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. Last year there were 283 UNICEF-aided projects, a large proportion of which were concerned with the eradication of malaria, the control of yaws and tuberculosis, and similar basic health programmes.

Since its establishment, contributions have been given to UNICEF on a voluntary basis by governments and individuals in 118 countries and territories (countries receiving aid are required to equal or better the funds allocated to them). As of December 31, 1955 the total contributions and pledges had amounted to about \$185,000,000, of which \$170,000,000 constituted governmental contributions. The annual budget has been continually expanding and UNICEF officials hope to raise a sum in the neighbourhood of \$20,000,000 for operations during 1957.

Canada has contributed substantially to UNICEF since its inception, its initial contribution, made in 1947, being \$5,200,000. The total donated to the Fund by the Canadian Government will have reached \$10,675,000 by the end of 1957; this amount includes the \$650,000 pledged, subject to Parliamentary approval for 1957. In addition to these governmental contributions there have been private contributions resulting from organized campaigns in Canada and totalling about \$1,500,000.

UNRWA

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East was established by the General Assembly in December 1949 to provide for the relief and resettlement of about 950,000 refugees left homeless by the hostilities in Palestine in 1948. The Agency was charged with the task of co-operating with local governments in direct relief and works programmes in the Middle East, and of consulting with those governments on measures to be taken until such time as international assistance for relief and works programmes would no longer be available or until such time as the refugees would be able to exercise the choice between repatriation and compensation offered to them by resolutions of the General Assembly.

Political considerations have impeded the various plans for solving the Palestine refugee problem. In particular, the refugees have been reluctant to take any action leading to resettlement in countries in the area other than Israel since they feel this might prejudice their position with regard to repatriation

or compensation. A programme of temporary employment which was first proposed proved unworkable, and a plan for re-integration, which was intended to resettle the bulk of the refugees by the end of 1955, proved unacceptable to the refugees. At present, the implementation of two major resettlement projects which would place about 200,000 refugees on land made cultivable by irrigation in the Yarmuk-Jordan Valley and Western Sinai is held up by political difficulties. It is clear that the Palestine refugees will continue to be an international charge until such time as there is a settlement of the major differences between Israel and the Arab States.

Up to June 30, 1956 expenditures by UNRWA and its predecessor, United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees (established in December 1948), totalled about \$218 million. By far the larger part of this sum has been spent on direct relief, even though the cost of maintaining the refugees at a subsistence level is only about \$27 per capita per year. Canada has been the fourth largest contributor to the Agency, following the United States, the United Kingdom and France. Recently Canadian pledges have been in the neighbourhood of \$500,000 annually, and approval by Parliament of a contribution of \$750,000 for the 18-month period ending December 31, 1957 will bring the total amount contributed by Canada for the period 1948-57 well over the \$5 million mark.

UNREF

A refugee is defined by the United Nations as a person who has left the country of his normal residence because of fear of persecution. At the end of the Second World War the number of refugees in Europe was close to 2.2 million people. By the beginning of October 1956 this number had been reduced either by emigration, re-establishment in the country of present asylum, or voluntary return to original homes, to about 300,000 persons. Most of these 300,000 European refugees were in Austria, Germany, Greece and Italy. Those still living in refugee camps numbered 70,000, and included many aged, sick or physically handicapped persons who are known as "hard core" refugees.

Canada has aided United Nations refugee work since 1947. Immediately after the Second World War this work was carried on by the International Refugee Organization (IRO) and between the years 1947 and 1951 Canada contributed approximately \$19 million to that Agency and to the interim agencies which assumed some of IRO's work in 1951 and 1952. IRO was terminated in 1952 when the refugee problem in Europe had become more manageable and the great post-war urgency had passed. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, whose office had been established in 1950, then took over IRO's task of settling and assisting refugees, and was charged with the administration of the United Nations Refugee Fund. Canada continued to support the Fund, contributing a total of \$450,000 to it during the period 1952-1956. Subject to the approval of Parliament, Canada will, in addition, contribute \$200,000 to the regular 1957 budget of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who is endeavouring over a four-year period (1955-1958) to find some permanent solution for this tragic and pitiable European refugee problem.

During recent weeks the work of the High Commissioner for Refugees has been vastly increased by the great influx to Austria of refugees from Hungary. To meet this great emergency the Canadian Parliament at its special session in November made a special contribution of \$1 million to Hungarian relief, of which \$250,000 has been allotted to UNREF.

ETAP

The United Nations and the Specialized Agencies all have technical assistance programmes financed out of these regular budgets. In 1950 the General Assembly set up the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme to be supervised by the Technical Assistance Committee of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and administered by the Technical Assistance Board. Since its inception ETAP has been financed by voluntary contributions from countries willing to assist in a very real and active way the economically less-developed countries of the world. Canada's gifts to ETAP, which complement Canadian contributions to the Colombo Plan, provide a continuing expression of Canada's willingness to co-operate internationally to try to raise standards of living and improve economic conditions in the less-fortunate areas of the world.

During the years 1950-1956, Canada has given a total of \$7.2 million to ETAP. In 1957 Canada will contribute, subject to the approval of Parliament, an additional \$2 million, representing an increase of more than 10 per cent over the amount given in 1956. To enable the Technical Assistance Board to plan ahead with some surety of continued support, and in order to help the recipient countries to co-ordinate their development programmes, Canada and a number of other states have furthermore stated their intention to contribute, subject to the approval of their legislatures, to the Expanded Programmes for the years 1958 and 1959 amounts of a similar magnitude to those contributed by them in 1956. Canada's contribution to ETAP is now the third largest, ranking after those of the United States and the United Kingdom; on a per capita basis Canada is the highest contributor. The \$2 million pledged for 1957 represents an annual gift of 13.2 cents by each person living in Canada. Other countries giving more than 9 cents for each of their inhabitants are Denmark (13 cents), Norway (11.2 cents), Sweden (9.16 cents) and the United States (9.5 cents).

It may be of interest to examine how ETAP will use the \$31 million which has been pledged by 71 states for the Expanded Programme in 1957. The Economic and Social Council has approved the allocation of the bulk of this \$31 million to five agencies as follows: (1) approximately \$5.5 million will go to the World Health Organization (WHO) to help that Specialized Agency to accelerate its work of training health workers, to provide more demonstration clinics, and generally to speed up its programme aimed at improving standards of health; (2) about \$5 million will go to another Specialized Agency, UNESCO, to help it improve the level of elementary education in under-developed areas, to improve cultural contacts between nations, and to promote research in basic scientific problems; (3) another Specialized Agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which is concerned with increasing the productivity of the land, forests and fisheries as well as improving their products, will receive the largest amount of all, over \$8 1/4 million; (4) the International Labour Organization (ILO) will be allotted \$3 1/2 million to assist it in carrying on its effective and valuable programme of improving work skills and in increasing the productivity of labour; (5) and finally, the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration (UNTA), which has as its Director-General a Canadian, Dr. H.L. Keenleyside, will receive \$6 1/2 million, UNTAA provides advanced training in public administration, in welfare services, and in various scientific pursuits for many scholars and fellows from the less technically developed areas of the world.

Over the years Canadian spokesmen have repeatedly stressed the desirability of using United Nations machinery for providing or supervising technical assistance to the less-developed areas. Canada is gratified that ETAP, by contributing to the sum of technical knowledge and the dissemination of that knowledge, is bringing about some improvement in the standard of living of people who can benefit from such assistance and will thus be in a position to increase their own contribution to the international community. ETAP also helps to promote mutual understanding and goodwill among all the 71 countries which actively take part in this worldwide programme of service.

To sum up, in 1956 Canada paid \$3,000,000 in membership fees or assessments to the United Nations and to the United Nations Specialized Agencies. Last year Canada also gave voluntarily to the four special United Nations programmes an additional sum of more than \$3 million. Thus Canada's total contributions for United Nations work in 1956 amounted to more than \$6 million.

RP/C

February, 1957.

Over the years, various agencies have reported
to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare
the results of their studies on the health status
of the population. These studies have shown that
the health status of the population is generally
poor, and that there is a need for more
health services. The Department has been
concerned about this situation and has
been working to improve the health status
of the population.

In 1967, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare
announced a new program to improve the health status
of the population. This program is called the
National Health Service. The program is designed
to provide health services to all people who
need them. The program is a major step
toward improving the health status of the
population.

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