

greater international action is in the development of river basins and watersheds affecting several countries. Along with other UN agencies, FAO is studying the land and water development potentialities of the Mekong Valley at the request of the Governments of Viet-nam, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand. Studies are being made in respect of fishing boats and fish harbours. The items mentioned are only a few illustrations of the scope of the technical activities of the FAO.

**Commodity Review.**—The work of the FAO Conference, the Council and the Committee on Commodity Problems in the commodity field may be summarized as follows: (1) making a periodic review of the commodity situation; (2) providing a forum for discussing problems, exchanging views and studying national policies; (3) sponsoring specialized commodity study groups; (4) reviewing proposals for action and making recommendations; (5) publishing reports on commodity policies and developments; (6) co-operating with other international commodity agencies in the preparation and review of commodity situation reports and in the consideration of proposals for action programs.

A major activity is the study of the problem of commodity surpluses by the Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal located in Washington, which is concerned with ways and means of using surpluses to establish national food reserves and/or to finance economic development in under-developed countries. Special aspects of the surplus problem are also the concern of other FAO commodity groups, such as the Group on Grains which has undertaken study of the causes of the present imbalance in the wheat and coarse grains situation, and the commodity groups concerned with rice, copra, cocoa, dairy products and citrus fruits.

**Canada and the FAO.**—Canada's interest in the FAO began with the Hot Springs Conference. The United Nations Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture was established by this Conference and was headed by a Canadian. It laid the groundwork for the first FAO Conference which was held at Quebec City in 1945. In the same year the Canadian Parliament passed the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Act which provided for the carrying into effect of the "Agreement for a Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations between Canada and certain other Nations and Authorities" This Act approves the Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization and empowers the Governor in Council to make such appointments, establish such offices, make such Orders in Council, and do such things as appear necessary for carrying out the provisions of the Constitution.

Canada is a member of the Council, the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), the Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal, and the FAO Group on Grains, the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, and is participating in a number of working parties sponsored by the FAO dealing with a variety of problems.

Over 100 Canadians have been on FAO technical assignments since 1951. For some of these experts there were repeat performances. Others have been invited to participate on panels of experts dealing with nutrition, plant protection, forestry, fisheries and atomic energy. A number of Canadians are on the staff at Headquarters in Rome.

Early in 1946, member nations were invited to establish the National FAO Committees to maintain liaison between FAO Headquarters and their respective governments. In accordance with this request a Canadian Interdepartmental FAO Committee was formed to provide a link between the FAO and the Canadian Government on questions pertaining to FAO. The Committee is composed of senior government officials representing the Departments of Agriculture, Fisheries, Northern Affairs and National Resources (Forestry), National Health and Welfare (Nutrition), Trade and Commerce, External Affairs, Finance, and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.