

Canadian Government Exhibition Commission.—The Canadian Government Exhibition Commission is responsible for the planning, organization and administration of all Canadian exhibits in fairs and exhibitions abroad, in which the Canadian Government decides to participate. In addition, the Commission endeavours to advise private exhibitors and their agents on the best means of displaying Canadian products at overseas fairs. The Commission is also responsible for any international fairs and exhibitions held in Canada, financed and sponsored by the Federal Government.

Commodities Branch.—The principal role of the Commodities Branch is active trade promotion. The Branch provides liaison with industry and the business community in Canada, and passes on information about trade opportunities brought to light by officers of the Department at home and abroad.

The Branch has commodity specialists organized in six divisions: Engineering and Equipment, Minerals and Metals, Forest Products, Chemicals, Consumer Goods, and Transportation and Trade Services. Within these divisions, individual commodity specialists are concerned with such particular groups of products as engineering services and plant equipment, electrical and electronic equipment and transportation equipment, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, lumber, pulp and paper, chemicals and petroleum products and leather and rubber, as well as a wide range of consumer products. Commodity officers visit plants, attend meetings of business associations, prepare trade studies and market surveys, and assist in arranging displays of Canadian goods abroad for the purpose of introducing them in foreign markets. Commodity specialists direct the attention of trade commissioners to changes in supply conditions and to products available for export, and also relay market news received from trade commissioners to Canadian manufacturers and exporters.

The Branch is concerned with the administration of the Export and Import Permits Act and is active in the export control field, including international arrangements for the control of strategic materials. Branch representatives attend international commodity study groups in such products as tin, rubber, cotton, lead and zinc, where major world suppliers and users of the commodity concerned meet to arrange a framework for orderly marketing and price stability in principal world markets. The Branch also acts as a source of commercial intelligence and compiles and distributes trade information essential to the operation of other branches of the Department.

Economic and Technical Assistance Branch.—This Branch administers Canadian foreign aid programs, including Canada's participation in the Colombo Plan for co-operative economic development in South and South-East Asia, the Canada-West Indies Aid Program, and the Commonwealth Technical Assistance Program, which involves the independent African States within the Commonwealth and other Commonwealth countries not included in the Colombo Plan. These programs are designed to help the peoples of less-developed countries to raise their living standards and productivity. The Canadian contribution is of two types: capital and technical assistance. Through the capital assistance program, grants of equipment and services are made to countries in the different areas on a bilateral basis. Technical assistance embraces the training in Canada of individuals from less-developed countries in a variety of fields and the provision of Canadian technical experts to advise and instruct abroad. The funds to finance the different aid programs are voted by Parliament on a yearly basis.

The Branch co-operates with the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, as well as with the International Co-operation Administration of the United States and other international agencies in recruiting technical experts, and in arranging courses of instruction for trainees sent to Canada under their auspices.