Co-operation with the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, and with Other International Aid Programs.—In addition to the annual contributions made to the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, Canada arranges training programs in Canada for individuals studying under the auspices of the different Specialized Agencies. This service is also extended to the technical assistance program of the International Co-operation Administration of the United States as well as to other international aid organizations. Up to Mar. 31, 1965, more than 2,000 individuals had come to Canada through the various agencies from more than 100 countries in all parts of the world. Assistance is also given by recruiting Canadians for service with the Specialized Agencies on specific technical assistance assignments in under-developed countries.

External Aid Office.—As of Nov. 9, 1960, the operation and administration of Canada's external assistance programs became the responsibility of the External Aid Office, established by Order in Council of that date and placed in charge of a Director General.

As mentioned under the separate programs above, additional funds were made available for grant assistance in 1964-65. Canada also introduced a development loan program for which $50,000,000 was authorized by Parliament on a non-lapsing basis. The terms of the loans are comparable with those of the International Development Association—up to 50 years maturity, non-interest-bearing, ten-year grace period, and 0.75 of 1 p.c. service charge.

Also during 1964-65, Parliament approved for the first time the establishment of a separate food aid program under which the External Aid Office is able to purchase food products to meet part of the Canadian contributions to the FAO World Food Program and to meet the needs of countries requesting this form of Canadian assistance.

Subsection 5.—Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was established in October 1961 as successor to the OEEC, with Canada and the United States joining the countries of Western Europe as full members of the new body. Japan, previously a member of the Development Assistance Committee, became, in May 1964, a full member of the OECD and the first member from outside Western Europe or North America.

The prime purpose of the OECD is to promote among member governments co-operation in the fields of economic policy, trade and assistance to developing countries, although it also provides a valuable forum for discussion of common problems in agriculture, industry, finance, technology and manpower policy. In 1963, Ministers approved an annual growth target for member countries for the next seven years of 4 p.c. in real gross national product. Because of its development from the former OEEC, the Organization was at first concerned largely with questions of primarily European interest but, as its membership expanded, it has become increasingly a recognized forum for broader consultation among advanced industrial countries, particularly on questions of economic and financial policy and on the problems of the developing countries. In this latter regard, the OECD now constitutes the main forum for consultations among developed countries concerning the work of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board, and its committees.

The OECD brings together government officials as well as representatives of private business, labour unions, universities and other non-governmental bodies in both deliberative and consultative capacities, and provides for international liaison among such groups. Within Canada, liaison has been established with the business community through the Canadian Business and Industry Advisory Committee, which was established in 1962 and comprises representatives of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Council of the International Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. Parallel arrangements exist for consultation with Canadian labour organizations.