

that, for 1953, the goal of the expanded program of technical assistance should be \$25,000,000. A total of about \$2,000,000 has so far been pledged, considerably more than for any previous program. The Canadian contribution was \$800,000. The group of experts who studied the possibility of establishing a United Nations development fund for the purpose of making long-term low-interest loans for development projects issued a report in March and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development is giving further study to the suggestion of establishing an international finance corporation to increase the flow of private capital to under-developed areas. Both these questions received some discussion at the seventh session of the General Assembly and will be on the agenda of the eighth session.

In the social field, a Convention on the Political Rights of Women, prepared by the Commission on the Status of Women, was opened for signature at the seventh session. Twenty-one countries so far have signed. At its sixth session, the General Assembly asked the Commission on Human Rights to draft two Covenants on Human Rights, one to include the traditional civil liberties, the other economic, social and cultural rights. The Commission drafted the substantive articles of both Covenants at its session in 1952 and commenced working on measures of application, that is, on the procedural articles relating to implementation, reservations, a federal state clause, etc. The Social Commission is holding a session in 1953 specially for the purpose of preparing recommendations on a program of concerted action in the social field designed to co-ordinate the activities of the Specialized Agencies and other authorities concerned in social welfare and related matters.

**Specialized Agencies.**—An eleventh specialized agency of the United Nations, the World Meteorological Organization, started functioning in 1951. The International Refugee Organization came to an end early in 1952. Continuing problems in connection with refugees will be the concern of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which was established by the General Assembly in December 1950. The proposed International Trade Organization and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization have not yet come into existence.

### **Subsection 3.—Canada and the North Atlantic Treaty**

Within less than two years of the signing at San Francisco, U.S.A., of the Charter of the United Nations in 1945, the hopes of people everywhere for universal peace had given place to growing anxiety. The Security Council, which had been given primary responsibility for the maintenance of security, was already hamstrung by the deliberate tactics of the Soviet representatives. The encouragement of communist régimes in countries under control of the Red Army, and activities in other countries, particularly in Western Europe, provided ample evidence of the imperialistic designs of the Soviet Union. Under these circumstances, nations that found themselves in common danger of aggression were driven to seek security by special co-operation in defensive measures.

A major step in the search for security by Western nations was taken in the spring of 1948 when the United Kingdom, France, The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg signed a treaty, at Brussels, providing for their collective self-defence. In the months that followed there were many signs that determined efforts by Western European nations to co-operate for defence would find a ready response