

Nothing shows better the part which Christians have to play in international institutions than the place which has been given to the Holy See. Although, at the beginning, there was some diffidence about seeking the co-operation of the Holy See, there are now few institutions which have not sought the presence of a representative from Rome, at least as an observer. The Holy See has replied favourably to these requests. Today it has permanent observers at F.A.O. and U.N.E.S.C.O. It is regularly represented at various other sessions, notably those of W.H.O. It has taken part in most of the big conferences of the last few years, with the exception of those which are purely political. Seven years ago the United Nations invited the Holy See to join the Committee of the United Nations Refugee Emergency Fund (U.N.R.E.F.), which has the task of advising the High Commissioner for Refugees in all his activities. We must add that the Holy See has contributed token gifts to the various funds which have been launched under the auspices of the United Nations. We may mention that it has made a contribution each year to the Technical Assistance Fund. This shows that as well as the unequivocal declarations of the Holy Father, the authorities in the Church favour the policy of being represented at international institutions, and of a sincere, if cautious, collaboration in their work.

NOTICE

There will be a BLACKFRIARS afternoon at the Aquinas Centre, St Dominic's Priory, Southampton Road, N.W.5, on Saturday, December 14 at 3 p.m. Renée Haynes will speak on 'The Problem of Communication' and a discussion will follow. All readers and friends of BLACKFRIARS are cordially invited to attend.