

APPENDIX I

which the chairman of the Executive Board has to shoulder, and the enormous amount of work which falls on him. I know that my friend and colleague would not wish me to labour the point. But I am sure that I speak for all my colleagues in paying, before this Assembly, a tribute to the high integrity of our Chairman and the devotion of which he has set such an example for us.

Mr. President, I have made a point of saying the first part of what I had to say in one of the two official languages of my country. This was a privilege granted to the Canadian delegation at the Paris and Mexico City Conferences. With your permission, I shall now use English to complete my speech and to convey to this audience the further points and suggestions which my delegation has to make.

There is no doubt that the work of UNESCO, however praiseworthy it may be, is not always looked upon with favour by the people or the Governments represented in the Organization. This does not mean that the work accomplished has failed to arouse public attention and support. In other fields, various United Nations Organizations are struggling with problems, the solution of which remains to be found. The world's people await uneasily the solid basis for peace that they, together with UNESCO, are attempting to establish. Billions have been engulfed during the war for the maintenance of armies and for research on war weapons which were to ensure victory. At the end of the war, the finances of many countries were depleted and enormous deficits have since had to be faced. Taxation weighs heavily on their population and the situation has not yet reached the point where measures of security should be abandoned. And all this is very costly. No project, good as it may be, can be readily agreed upon by a community of states unless the expenses it entails can be fully justified.

If, to ensure the success of its undertakings, UNESCO must carefully survey its budget, the same must be the aim of contributory states. Member States believe that they should not be under the obligation of defending the Organization sponsored by them, but rather that the latter assert the usefulness of its projects. This is not so much a demand that it defend its aims, the excellence of which no one contests, but rather a demand that it economically pursue objectives which may capture attention and win favour with the public.

My delegation notes with regret continued vacancies in respect of half a dozen senior positions in the Secretariat, the more so because the Bureaux of Public Information and Administrative Management and Budget, are involved. We would like to feel assured that the administrative efficiency of the Organization, in terms of programme value per dollar of budget, will be enhanced in 1949. Improvement in public information appears to us also to be needed. UNESCO receives too little space in the press, and less that is written with understanding.

The most valuable publicity for UNESCO in Canada has resulted from the Educational Seminars, and it is with some misgiving we note that not more than one Seminar is contemplated in 1949. We doubt whether the equivalent cost of Seminars, spent in the Projects Division of Mass Communications, can yield comparable returns.

We are pleased to see that it is planned to hold a Seminar in the Far East. In these times of uncertainty and change, the West has much to learn