

ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS

As usual, the General Conference pronounced provisionally on the organization's spending level for the next *biennium* at the end of the first week of the session, after heads of delegation had in the General Debate stated the national appraisals of the Organization's work and before the two subsidiary organs of the conference, the Programme Commission and the Administrative Commission, embarked on their detailed studies. It soon became clear that the Soviet Union had chosen to counter Western proposals for the development of Unesco by a general offensive on the way in which the organization's affairs were being handled. It criticized particularly the Director-General and suggested that he might be replaced by a collegial authority of three representing respectively "the socialist countries, the neutralist countries and the countries in the military bloc of the Western powers", it charged discrimination in the allotment of posts in the Secretariat and proposed a reduction of 15 per cent in costs and staff for General Administration and Common Services; it stated its firm opposition to the proposal by the Director-General for the construction of a fourth building.

This platform, to which the Soviet Union and many of its satellites held tenaciously throughout the session, was too obviously similar to that adopted in New York and in meetings of other Specialized Agencies to be taken as the expression of a concern for the organization as such. In this context administrative matters were discussed in such terms that the work of delegations like ours, interested in an objective and critical approach which befits the detailed examination of such matters, was made extremely difficult, since any expression of opinion was frequently read as either censure or commendation of the organization.

The Budget

The budget sought by the Director-General, with the concurrence of the Executive Board, to finance the programme and operations of the organization for 1961-1962 amounted to \$30.5 million, an increase of more than \$4 million over the 1959-1960 budget. Both the United States and Brazilian delegations rated the budget figure as insufficient to meet urgent needs and moved independently amendments to include additional amounts. It proved possible to reconcile the two moves on the basis of the United States proposal for an added increment of \$1 million to be directed primarily for the development of education in Africa. The original United States resolution planned that the whole of the increase should go to meet African needs, whereas the Brazilian plan called for an additional amount to be used not only in Africa but also in other areas. As a result of this reconciliation the conference approved provisionally the Director-General's figure of \$30.5 million plus a further \$1 million to be allocated by the Programme Commission with special attention to the urgent needs of Tropical Africa.

In the course of the session, approval was given to resolutions from various member states for projects which, cumulatively, came to exceed the \$31.5 million provisional budget level by \$1.1 million. At the last stage of the session, representatives of the main recipient areas took the initiative in helping to