

Organization and announcing Poland's withdrawal from membership. It was not a startling development, because Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary had not taken part in the work of the Organization since the Florence conference of 1950. A letter has been sent from UNESCO urging the Polish Government to reconsider its decision; but it seems highly improbable that this will have any affect, particularly since Hungary announced after the conference its intention of withdrawing.

Debate on the Budget Ceiling

The programme and budget estimates prepared by the Director-General and approved by the Executive Board for presentation to the General Conference called for a budget of \$20,400,000 for the years 1953 and 1954. This, according to the Director-General, was the minimum necessary to carry out the essential parts of UNESCO's programme. This figure represented a substantial increase over the budget ceiling of \$8,700,000 for the year 1952.

The debate on the budget ceiling probably was the most critical of the session. On one side were those countries which entirely supported the Director-General's programme and considered that it constituted but one more modest step in the direction of a constantly expanding UNESCO programme. They saw an almost limitless field of worthwhile projects in education, science and culture, and thought that only through UNESCO could these be initiated. On the other side, those countries that spoke in favour of a more modest budget, principally the countries, such as the United States, the United Kingdom and ourselves, making the largest contributions to UNESCO, cited heavy commitments in other fields and inability to give unlimited funds to UNESCO. Although the division of countries into those which thought in an expansive way and those of a more conservative bent was not entirely clearcut, predominant among the former were the Latin American countries and some of the more important