

accomplished without any weakening or undermining of the standards of well-being and security achieved after much struggle and effort by our present populations.

How do we mobilize our limited resources — both national and international — to meet the social and economic needs of our steadily rising population? How can we best provide a decent, adequate — even a slowly rising — standard of living for our ever-expanding human family without diminishing or weakening standards already attained? This is the challenge which presents itself in the field of national and international social welfare policy; and it is against this background that we must consider the various reports presented to the Social Commission and the Economic and Social Council.

These various documents do not, of course, provide any clear-cut, ready answers to the basic problems I have mentioned. They could not in fairness be expected to do so. The second International Survey of Programmes of Social Development provides, however, a valuable commentary on the efforts made at national and international levels throughout the four-year period 1953 to 1957 to maintain and improve social conditions on a wide variety of fronts. It is a courageous record of the efforts made, and in many respects an encouraging report of modest progress achieved, even though, as noted by the Secretary-General in his opening statement to the Council on the World Social Situation, the tempo of progress in the four-year period under review was slower on the whole than it had been in the immediate post-war period.

Particular mention should also be made of the Third International Survey of Training for Social Work prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with a resolution passed by the Council several years ago at its 13th session. This survey, by decision of the Council at its session this summer, is now to go to governments for their comments. I do not propose, therefore, to offer any detailed observations at this time, beyond stating that, in the view of my Delegation, the success of most of the other programmes in the social field — whether they be housing, community development, social defence, family and child welfare, or social services in general — depends in the final analysis on the availability of the right kinds of personnel, properly trained, experienced and adequate in number to the tasks for which they are responsible. The Council and the Social Commission are, therefore, quite properly concerned to make sure that, through periodic surveys of the training facilities available in this field, the best possible technical advice and assistance should be made available to help governments in the development of sound and enlightened social-welfare programmes, and in the training and recruitment of competent social-welfare personnel to administer them.

Many of the aspects of social policy to which the Council and the Commission are directing their attention seem, to my Delegation at least, to be essentially matters of national or domestic concern; and it is difficult, except for those who are closely connected with these activities, to visualize the full extent of the opportunities for useful and constructive help which are open to international intergovernmental agencies. To my Delegation at least, it would appear that in