

1 GENERAL SURVEY

The Fourth Session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was held at Paris, France, from September 19 to October 5, 1949. The Session was formally opened at "Unesco House" - the seat of the Organization's Secretariat - by the head of the Lebanese delegation, Mr. Frangie of Lebanon having been elected President of the preceding General Conference at Beirut.

M. Georges Bidault of France was nominated for President of the Fourth Session, but declined to accept in favour of Mr. E. Ronald Walker, head of the Australian delegation. Mr. Walker was unanimously elected, together with the following seven Vice-Presidents: H.E. Shafik Ghorbal Bey (Egypt), H.E.M. Gonzalo Zaldumbide (Ecuador), M. Georges Bidault (France), Dr. Tara Chand (India), H.E. Count Stefano Jacini (Italy), Mr. David Hardman (United Kingdom), Dr. Herdinand Hercik (Czechoslovakia).

ATTENDANCE

Some fifty-five nations were represented at the Conference. Of these the following member states sent official delegations: Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Three member states were not represented: Argentina, El Salvador, and Honduras. It will be noted that five new members had joined the Organization in the interval between the Beirut and the Paris Conferences: Thailand, Switzerland, Burma, the Principality of Monaco, and Israel. In addition, the admission of Ceylon was unanimously approved at the Fourth Session, bringing the total membership of the Organization to fifty-one nations.

The following non-member states were represented by observers: Ceylon (prior to admission), Chili, Korea, Finland, Iceland, Hashemite Jordan, Nepal, Nicaragua, Sweden, the Vatican, and the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, Japan. Observers were also present on behalf of the United Nations, the Specialized Agencies, eight other international

inter-governmental organizations and approximately fifty-six international non-governmental or semi-governmental bodies, as well as the Carnegie Endowment and the Rockefeller Foundation.

The Canadian delegation was headed by Mr. John B.C. Watkins, Chargé d'Affaires, Canadian Embassy, Moscow. In addition to Mr. Watkins, who acted as delegate, the delegation consisted of the following persons: Mr. F. Charpentier, Canadian Embassy, Paris, and Mr. G.C. Sylvestre, Prime Minister's Office, Ottawa (alternate delegates), and Mr. R.H. Jay, Department of External Affairs (secretary).

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

At the Beirut Conference Dr. Jaime Torres Bodet, then Foreign Minister of Mexico, had been elected to succeed Dr. Julian Huxley as Director-General. Dr. Bodet's exhaustive report on the activities of the Organization during the first months of his leadership provided one of the most interesting subjects for discussion in the early meetings of the Fourth Session.

The report was presented by the Chairman of the Executive Board, Sir Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who stressed that the new Director-General deserved the confidence and support of all member states for his qualities of administrative leadership and enlightened understanding of the basic idealism of UNESCO. Dr. Bodet amplified his written report by reiterating his determination to establish an order of urgency in the execution of the programme. He expressed the view that greater concentration in the work of the Organization is essential if it is to give proper evidence of its value and effectiveness. He also emphasized that UNESCO is not a Secretariat alone, but is simply a means of carrying out the will of the member states whose whole-hearted co-operation is necessary if the aims set forth in the constitution are ever to be realized.

The Chairmen of nearly all of the delegations contributed to the discussion by presenting the views of their governments on the activities of the Organization. Without exception they paid eloquent tribute to the energy and inspiration of the new Director-General. In general, they evidenced satisfaction with the progress made during 1949. Some criticism was, however, levelled at the number of publications being prepared in the Secretariat which, in the view of the delegate