

The Second Congress of WMO met in Geneva from April 14 to May 13, 1955. It reviewed the workings of the Organization from the time of the First Congress in 1951 when the programmes of the various constituent bodies had been initiated. The various technical commissions had each prepared draft regulations in their special fields, and the Congress completed the revision of these drafts into a uniform code of regulations. Arrangements were made to publish a World Climatological Atlas, a World Meteorological Bibliography and a number of guides to practice in fields of meteorology; steps were taken to promote the co-operation of WMO with other organizations in dealing with problems of water resource development and problems of the arid zones and humid tropics. An attempt was made to have the metric system and the centigrade degree adopted as the standard units in meteorology, but when this was found to be unacceptable to many countries, a compromise resolution was adopted favouring the metric system but recognizing that sweeping change was not at present practical. Provision was also made for some expansion of the secretariat in keeping with the increasing volume of work being undertaken by the Organization.

Prior to the opening of the Congress in April 1955, the Executive Committee of WMO held its sixth session. There was discussion of the future development of the secretariat; whether the secretariat should be primarily a technical, administrative body assisting the other constituent bodies of WMO or whether it should take over substantial parts of the work now performed by technical commissions. It was decided not to recommend any substantial change in the allocation of responsibilities at the present time.

Although WMO has no funds of its own for technical assistance, it provides aid to under-developed nations through the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. During 1954, WMO expended a grant of approximately \$97,000; it was estimated that in 1955 \$185,000 would be used. Technical assistance in meteorology is required by a number of countries; some need advice in the initial establishment of a weather service; others require training facilities for experts in special fields connected with aviation or hydrology; yet other under-developed countries wish to receive expert weather advice for local officials who already have the necessary basic training. In 1955, grants totalling \$27,200 were made in the North American region to the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Nicaragua for training personnel who are making a study of the application of wind power and for organizing a meteorological service. During 1955, 16 countries were scheduled to receive assistance. Nineteen meteorological experts were appointed to visit under-developed countries and 18 fellowships were given to citizens of these countries for study abroad. The year 1955 was the first for some time when there were no fellows from under-developed nations receiving meteorological instruction in Canada.

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund

Introduction

Following the 1944 Bretton Woods United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference, at which their respective Articles of Agreement were drawn up, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund came into being in December 1945. The principal function of the International Bank is to assist in the economic development of its member countries. This it does through the extension of loans for de-