

recognize the variety of political and social structures which exist in the world today and that the ILO constitution should not be amended to recognize only one (i.e. the free enterprise) economic system; several speakers stressed the need for ILO to take cognizance of the increasing nationalization of economies in many countries, and one delegate argued that the ILO could not solve the problem of co-existence between free enterprise and Communist economies by removing the points of contact between the two and by transforming the ILO into an organization which would serve only one political ideology or economic system.

### Chinese Representation

In spite of objections put forward by a number of delegations, the Conference decided to accept the credentials of the Chinese Nationalist delegation and to grant them voting rights, notwithstanding the fact that Nationalist China has arrears of more than one million dollars. A two-thirds majority is required by the ILO constitution on a vote of this kind, and the final vote was 138 for, 63 against, with 24 abstentions, the affirmative votes being only four more than the minimum required to secure the two-thirds majority. (The two Canadian Government delegates abstained. The Canadian employer and worker delegates voted to grant voting rights to China.)

### Conventions and Recommendations

The Conference reached agreement on two new international labour instruments—a recommendation to promote vocational training in agriculture and a recommendation on welfare facilities for workers. The Conference also took preliminary action on five other instruments with a view to final discussion next year—a convention on forced labour, a convention and a recommendation on weekly rest in commerce and offices, and a convention and a recommendation on the protection and integration of indigenous peoples, including tribal and semi-tribal populations in independent countries.

The proposal for a convention on forced labour had been referred to the ILO by the Economic and Social Council. Although its primary purpose is to outlaw forced labour as a means of political coercion, the proposed convention contains clauses aimed against other types of forced labour as well. Delegates from the democratic countries noted with interest that the Communist governments have apparently decided to give this convention whole-hearted support.

The Conference adopted resolutions on automation, reduction of hours of work, abolition of wage discrimination based on sex, and disarmament. The first three of these resolutions were designed mainly to pave the way for more formal activity by the ILO on these subjects.

The Conference also conducted its annual review of the manner in which member states are applying ILO conventions and recommendations.

### Technical Assistance

The Conference examined carefully the technical assistance work of the ILO during 1955. Although some of this work is carried out under the regular budget of ILO, funds for a great part of it are put at the disposal of ILO by the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. It was noted that at the end of 1955 the ILO had 165 experts working in the less-