

APPENDIX I

Owing to an unfortunate combination of circumstances I was unable to participate in that Second General Conference. I regret this all the more in that, because of my functions, my absence could not pass unnoticed. As Chairman of the first Executive Board, it was my duty to present to the Conference, with or without comments, the first report of the Director-General. This thankless task fell to one of my colleagues. The report was presented without comments, and this was unfortunate. In the proceedings which ensued the silence of the Executive Board was taken amiss. I have seen, since, as all of you have, the records of speeches made at the plenary meeting and the summaries of proceedings of the committees and sub-committees, and I have felt some regret. Had I been present at the Conference I would not have allowed certain statements to pass without comment, and would have tried to put matters in their true light. It was, in fact, to be expected that after only six months of operation the programme drawn up in Paris could only have been partly carried out and that the Director-General and the Executive Board would be invited to furnish explanations. Far be it from me to suggest that my presence would have served any other purpose than to allow me to shoulder, with Dr. Huxley and my colleagues, the responsibility for the accomplishment or non-accomplishment of their tasks. If I venture to revert to the past, it is to express regret at not having contributed, in Mexico, my humble efforts to the prosecution of your work and to affirm, after a year of effort and less than six months of effective work, my unshakeable confidence in the success of our young Organization. It is also to state my profound conviction of the need for constructive criticism, and my pleasure at noting that such criticism was provided at Mexico City.

The value of UNESCO's work is variously assessed. It is clear that certain Member States are more or less enthusiastic in their support. If their faith in the objects of the Organization is somewhat lukewarm, it is, nevertheless, mainly as regards the means of attaining those objects that their opinions differ. The work done in Mexico, however, bore fruit, and no one can seriously contest its importance and value. What a difference between the achievements of the first six months of UNESCO's existence and those of the last twelve months! What a difference too in the organization of its services, and what ground it has covered! This was to be expected, and the hesitant States should, I think, feel reassured. This is not to say that the Organization is already working at full efficiency, and that we should not apply certain correctives each year. On the contrary, although we can congratulate ourselves that we are on the right road, we are nonetheless bound to seek out most diligently means of accomplishing more and better things, and especially to make good use of the appropriations at our disposal.

Having followed very thoroughly the meetings of the Executive Board during the past two years, it is my duty to pay tribute to our Director-General, Dr. Huxley, and to express to him my esteem and admiration. I join with all my heart in the eulogy which the delegate of the United Kingdom, Mr. Hardman, has made of him. Mr. Hardman's eloquent speech dispenses me from dwelling on the merits of one who will very soon relinquish the direction of an undertaking to which he has given the best in his thought and the valuable benefit of his outstanding culture.

My two-fold capacity as a member of the Executive Board and the head of a delegation compels me to elementary discretion as regards the tribute which should rightly be paid to the Executive Board. But I can unreservedly rejoice in the honour which has been mine to sit on the Executive Board under the able chairmanship of Dr. Walker. I wonder whether the Member States and their delegates at this Conference fully realize the task and the responsibilities