

Expansion of the Programme and Budget

Throughout the Conference there was an insistent demand from under-developed countries for a substantial extension of UNESCO's programme and a large increase in the budget. The crisis of 1952 did not recur because the contributions of new members provided additional revenue and made expansion of the programme and budget possible without any increase in the individual contributions of member states. By an overwhelming majority vote the Conference approved an assessment level of \$20,000,000 for 1955-56, an increase of approximately \$2,000,000 over 1953-54. Redistribution of contribution percentages as new members joined UNESCO caused Canada's percentage to decline from 3.54 to 2.77. The amount of the Canadian contribution for 1955-56 will be approximately \$554,000 compared with more than \$600,000 in 1953-54.

The under-developed countries obtained approval of a resolution calling for a study of the possibility of establishing an educational, scientific and cultural development fund. They explained that western-trained experts on educational and cultural development were ineffective because of differences in languages, educational methods, cultural conceptions, etc., and that they preferred a development fund from which loans could be obtained for building schools, libraries and laboratories and for financing fellowships to train their own nationals.

The programme proposed by the Director-General and the Executive Board was approved with minor alterations. Projects which are of greatest interest in Canada are reported in the annex to this report.

Attitude of Responsibility

The decisions to remodel UNESCO's programme and change the structure of the Executive Board to provide for representation of governments rather than of individuals competent in the areas of UNESCO activity are developments to be welcomed as they bring the Organization closer to the governments that contribute to it.

At the last two UNESCO Conferences proposals to alter the structure of the Executive Board were defeated, although in 1952 a Canadian compromise proposal received more sympathetic consideration and a decision on it was postponed. At the recent Conference a United States resolution to change the composition of the Executive Board encountered stiff opposition. However, when the operative paragraph of the Canadian compromise was inserted, the Conference voted by a large majority to elect an Executive Board of government representatives to "...exercise the powers delegated to them by the Conference on behalf of the Conference as a whole." Nevertheless, when the new Executive Board of 22 members was elected many of the same individuals and the same countries that had served in 1953-54 were returned to office, and it is unlikely that the attitude of these representatives or their governments will alter immediately.

Recommendations concerning remodelling UNESCO's programme were approved unanimously but this decision appeared to be something of a paradox in view of more than 100 new resolutions, many of which would detract attention