

tinue such of their functions as are applicable to the period of reconstruction. This will probably occupy the Commission throughout its first year, after which it will begin to examine problems of development. In addition to these mainly executive functions the Commission is empowered to collect, evaluate and disseminate such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate. The work of the Commission will be re-examined by the Council at the end of five years.

One of the subjects in which the Commission will take a lively interest at an early stage is the future of the German economy. The French tried very hard to include in the terms of reference some mention of the importance of the economy of Germany to that of Europe as a whole; but in this they were unsuccessful. It is clearly appropriate that the Commission should be in a position to make representations about Germany on questions affecting member countries of the Occupying Powers, and this in itself does not imply any commitment on the part of the Occupying Powers. The Terms of Reference provide that the Commission can undertake negotiations in (*inter alia*) Germany but only with the consent of the Control Authorities. In general the Occupying Powers will be represented on the Commission through individual national delegations, but experts from Germany will be brought in in a consultative capacity. As far as possible day-to-day German trade problems will continue to be discussed between the Bi-Zonal Authorities at Minden and the Commercial Attachés of other Powers.

The Commission will consist at first of all European countries which are members of the United Nations—and this is interpreted to include Iceland and Turkey—together with the United States. It is probable that non-United Nations European states will be invited to send observers, as will the established Specialised Agencies and the International Bank and Fund. The first meeting of the Commission will be held at Geneva for about a fortnight from the 2nd May, after which a small negotiating body will initiate the take-over of the Emergency European Organisations. The second meeting will take place at the end of June at which a report on the Commission's activities will be prepared for the Fifth Session of the Economic and Social Council.

The lead given in respect of Europe has been followed elsewhere and a corresponding Economic Commission for Asia

and the Far East has been decided on. An attempt to enlarge the purview of the European Commission to include the whole Mediterranean littoral and to set up a similar body for the Near East and North Africa was not successful.

Non-Governmental Organisations

Some time ago, the Secretariat brought up the question whether the Assembly's Resolution on the Franco Government should be deemed to apply to Non-Governmental Organisations with branches in Spain. The United Kingdom took the line of reason, that, since the Resolution was aimed at the Government of Franco, it could not apply to Organisations which were by definition non-Governmental. The United States, who had agreed with the United Kingdom line in preliminary discussions out of Committee, then changed their attitude and put up a resolution which was so phrased as to be hard to oppose without giving an appearance of being pro-Franco but which by admitting in principle that the Assembly Resolution could apply to non-Governmental organisations, opened the door which may later lead to its further application to relationship between N.G.Os and Specialised Agencies. According to this Resolution:

"international N.G.Os should be excluded from relationship under article 71 if they had legally constituted branches in Spain whose policies are determined and controlled by the Franco Government. They shall be eligible for consultative relationship (a) if they have only individual members in Spain, who are not organised into a legally constituted branch, (b) if the branches in Spain, though properly constituted serve the interests of the Spanish people rather than those of the Franco Government, (c) if such branches are not active at the present time."

This was passed in Committee, the U.K. abstaining. When the question came before the Council the French delegation moved an amendment which would have had the effect of cutting out reservation (c), and exposing the International Chamber of Commerce to fresh attack; H.M.G.'s original defence of it had been that its Spanish branch was moribund. This amendment was defeated, and the Economic and Social Council adopted the U.S.A. resolution given above with slight modification of (b). It is difficult to see what is gained by this heresy hunt among N.G.Os, and the United Nations may well deprive

themselves of valuable scientific and humanitarian co-operation, as has happened already in the parallel cases of the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission and the Narcotic Drugs Commission.

World Federation of Trade Unions

A resolution on Trade Union rights had been placed on the Agenda of the Economic and Social Council at the request of the W.F.T.U. Its subject-matter brought it obviously within the province of the I.L.O. which was to meet in June. When the Council met on the 24th March, France and U.S.S.R. proposed that the question be postponed until the Council's next session in July, because the Secretary-General of the W.F.T.U. was absent. Such a postponement would have been a severe rebuff to the rights of the I.L.O. After a long debate the Chairman put, and carried by 9 votes to 6 a resolution requesting the I.L.O. to consider the memoranda of the W.F.T.U. and of the American Federation of Labour at its next session and to send a report for the Council to consider at its session in July. The Council also resolved to send the memoranda to the Human Rights Commission. In this way the rights of the I.L.O. and the Economic and Social Council have been studied though some may doubt the appropriateness of the Council requesting a report from an independent body like the I.L.O. with a time-limit attached to the request. A procedure has also been established by which in future items submitted by category (a) non-governmental organisations shall be examined by the Secretary-General, and where necessary discussed with the organisation, before being placed on the provisional agenda for consideration by the Agenda Committee.

Trusteeship Council

The Council held its first meeting on the 26th March, an occasion marked by the presence of the Secretary-General and by the wilful absence of the Soviet delegation. In view of the line taken by the Soviet delegation at the General Assembly, that the trusteeship agreements submitted were not

in accordance with the Charter and therefore invalid, their absence is not entirely unexpected. Professor Francis Sayre (U.S.) was elected President and Sir Carl Berendsen (New Zealand) Vice-President. This means that representatives of a non-administering and an administering country respectively fill the two posts, and it is our view that this principle should be maintained, and that the presidency should alternate between the two. A Committee of full Council was appointed to examine any controversial rules of procedure. The Council itself adopts its own rules of procedure. At the meeting on March 27th it decided that there shall be two regular sessions each year. At present there are eight Trust Territories, Ruanda-Urundi under Belgium, Togoland and the Cameroons under France, Tanganyika, Togoland and the Cameroons under the U.K., New Guinea under Australia and Western Samoa under New Zealand.

Palestine

According to present arrangements, Sir Alexander Cadogan will ask the Secretary-General to put the Palestine question on the Agenda of the General Assembly at its September Session. H.M.G. will submit to the Assembly an account of the Administration of Palestine under the Mandate, and will invite the Assembly to "make recommendations concerning the future Government of Palestine." If the facts of the situation can be established beforehand, the September Assembly need not delay matters until 1948 by setting up Committees to investigate and report. Two procedures have been suggested for avoiding such delays, to set up a Committee either (i) by a special Session of the Assembly, or (ii) by the Authority of the Secretary-General, in agreement with member States. H.M.G. are ready to accept whichever wins general approval.

The Balkan Commission

For Senator Warren Austin's speech on U.S. policy towards Greece and Turkey, at the meeting of the Security Council on the 28th March see under "United States." For the Commission's activities see under "Greece."

THE MOSCOW CONFERENCE

Tuesday and Wednesday the 25th and 26th March were spent in discussing the Deputies' report on procedure for a German Peace Treaty. The traditional points

of view were re-stated, and the entire draft, with the exception of the part dealing with the composition of the Peace Conference, was referred back to the Deputies,