

Several delegations stressed the extra cost of holding general conferences away from the permanent headquarters of the Organization - an extra cost which could only be met by funds which otherwise would be devoted to programme activities. They also stressed the difficulties and disorganization for the secretariat. Some countries warned that the distance and the additional cost would make it impossible for them to send full delegations, or perhaps any delegations at all. However, the argument that this was an effective way of publicizing UNESCO and making its work known on the South American continent won the day. The conference voted 28-13 (with 12 abstentions) in favour of Montevideo. It is expected that the 1954 conference will be held in May or September of that year; the decision rests in the hands of the Executive Board.

Admission of New Members to UNESCO

The admission of Nepal and Libya created no difficulties. The admission of Spain, however, aroused strong feelings among the delegations which had opposed it, and caused uneasiness amongst delegations that did not wish to take a strong stand either way. The General Conference accepted a resolution precluding debate on the admission of Spain. This was approved by a majority of 44-4 (with 7 abstentions). Spain's admission without debate led the Yugoslav member of the Executive Board to announce his resignation (which he later agreed to withdraw until his National Commission could review the issue) and resulted in the resignation of a member each from the French and Belgian delegations. The Canadian Delegation voted in favour of Spain's admission on the ground that UNESCO's objective was universal membership and that it was a non-political organization.

Withdrawal of Poland

A letter was received from the Polish Embassy in Paris in the last days of the conference denouncing the nature of the