

Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization

The Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) was established in 1959 to promote international co-operation on technical shipping problems and the adoption of the highest standards of safety and navigation. Its functions are advisory and consultative. During 1964, IMCO dealt with a wide range of problems, including the revision of the international code of signals, oil pollution of the sea, the carriage of dangerous goods, and fire protection on tankers. In addition to three meetings of its Council and two sessions of the Maritime Safety Committee, an extraordinary session of the IMCO Assembly was held in London from September 10 to 15. It approved amendments to the IMCO Convention designed to expand the membership of the Council from 16 to 18 in order to provide for a more equitable geographical representation.

International Telecommunication Union

The purpose of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is to maintain and extend international co-operation in the use and improvement of telecommunications of all kinds. In January and February 1964, the ITU organized in Geneva the first session of the Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference on Aeronautical Mobile High Frequency Communications, which discussed recent advances in radio spectrum usage and established technical and operational principles for improved plans in this field. In June, the Third Plenary Assembly of the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee took place in Geneva and approved the results of numerous technical and operating studies relating to inter-continental automatic-telephone operation, routing and network plans. It decided to create four autonomous working parties entrusted with preparing technical information on developing countries; one of them is chaired by Canada. In October, the ITU sponsored in Geneva the African Broadcasting Conference, but it broke up over the question of the participation of delegates from South Africa and Portugal. The majority of delegates voted to exclude them, but the Deputy Secretary-General withdrew the services of the Secretariat on the grounds that the vote could have no effect under the ITU Convention.

Under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and the United Nations Special Fund, ITU maintained 107 experts in the field in 1964 and awarded 87 new fellowships. New programmes in seven developing countries were approved, bringing to 16 the number of projects for which the ITU had been designated as the Executing Agency. At its