

renewing its offer of the site at the Place de Fontenoy, the French Government agreed to reimburse the Organization in the amount of \$90,000 for the expenses incurred in drawing up plans for the other site. It also offered to withdraw the architectural restrictions on the Place de Fontenoy site which had previously made this ground unsuitable. The French Government renewed its offer of an interest-free loan of approximately \$6,000,000, repayable over 30 years to finance the building. Agreement in principle to acceptance of the new offer was reached, subject to final ratification at the extraordinary session to be held in the spring of 1953, when the architects will have drawn up new plans. It seems likely that agreement will be reached in the spring and that construction can proceed. If this is the case, UNESCO should have its permanent headquarters in good time for the Ninth General Conference in 1956.

Composition of the Executive Board

A long but fruitful debate was held in the Administrative Commission on the amendment to the Constitution proposed by the United States. This would have had the effect of electing to the Executive Board representatives of national governments rather than persons chosen in their individual capacities. Those in favour of this argued that such a change would make for closer co-operation between the Executive Board and the governments of member states in the period between ordinary sessions and in the formulation of the programme and budget estimates for future years. They hoped that through closer liaison with national governments it would be possible to avoid the type of crisis over the programme and budget which occurred in 1952. Those opposed argued that the Executive Board should be above national direction and pressures, and should serve not member states but the Organization as a whole. Canada played an active part in modifying the original amendment to meet some of the objections raised and the amendment as