

the General Conference did not approve the increased programme and budget which he presented. In July 1953, Dr. Luther H. Evans, of the United States, was elected Director-General of UNESCO. One of his first endeavours was a re-orientation of the Organization's programme. It was proposed that 1955 and 1956 should be transitional years and that a remodelled programme should come into force in 1957. In 1954 the entry to UNESCO of the U.S.S.R., the Ukraine and Byelorussia and the return of Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia to active participation brought the total membership to 72 nations.

Easing of Tension

On the first day of the Conference the Soviet delegation unsuccessfully urged the admission to UNESCO membership of Roumania and Bulgaria and rejection of the Nationalist Chinese credentials. The comparatively restrained and moderate statement of the Soviet spokesman was indicative of the attitude taken by the U.S.S.R. throughout the session. The United States also scrupulously avoided provocation and concentrated on supporting increased technical aid to under-developed countries. Under these circumstances, the two leading participants were disposed to be reasonable, even conciliatory, toward each other.

The debate on obligations and rights of UNESCO staff members which involved three United States' citizens who had declined to answer questions concerning alleged communist associations, illustrated these attitudes. Some European countries were prepared to make this an issue of civil liberties, individual freedom and the independence of international civil servants. The United States said that the whole future of UNESCO was at stake and it was obvious that a major propaganda debate could be precipitated. Because of the reticence of the principals a major clash was avoided and the Conference approved the Director-General's recommendations which were designed to bring UNESCO staff regulations into conformity with those of the United Nations.

Three resolutions on atomic energy offered another opportunity for political argument on such questions as banning atomic weapons, disarmament, the harmful effects of radiation and the control of nuclear energy. However, thanks to the cooperative spirit of all concerned, it was possible to combine the three resolutions into one which authorized the Director-General to extend full cooperation to the United Nations on questions concerning the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The joint resolution was approved unanimously.

A Soviet resolution on "Measures to prevent the use of means of mass communication for the propaganda of war" seemed certain to create trouble until the Soviet joined Canada, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Lebanon, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States in sponsoring an alternative resolution on "Freedom of Information". The resolution was approved unanimously but the variation of interpretations of the operative paragraph which invited member states "to take the necessary measures to ensure freedom of expression and to remove barriers to the free flow of undistorted information" somewhat circumscribed the enthusiasm with which this Soviet concession had been greeted.