

seminar in 1949. During the discussion of future seminar policy a Belgian proposal that one of the seminars in 1950 deal with the revision of textbooks, especially in history, was approved. With respect to UNESCO's work in sending educational missions to member states requiring them, the Director-General reported to the Conference that the first requests for such assistance had been received from Hungary, Afghanistan and the Philippines.

A United States proposal instructing the Director-General to promote the study of the contribution of organized labour to the advancement of civilization was adopted by the Conference. A similar resolution dealing with the participation of labour in UNESCO activities was adopted in connection with the programme in adult education. The Director-General was instructed to include workers in industry and agriculture in the projected international conference in adult education. The General Conference accepted the invitation of Denmark to hold the meeting there in 1949.

NATURAL SCIENCES

The programme on natural sciences, approved at the Third Session, followed the principles established in Mexico City. A few new projects were approved which will not involve any great expenditure in 1949. The total financial appropriation for the section was set at \$679,000 compared with an estimated allocation of \$732,000 in 1948.

The operation of four field science offices in East Asia, South Asia, the Middle East and Latin America, and the granting of aid to non-governmental scientific organizations were retained as the principal tasks of the natural science section. The appropriation for grants-in-aid was raised from \$192,000 to \$212,000 and a new proposal was adopted that UNESCO, jointly with the World Health Organization, should assist in the establishment of a permanent bureau for the co-ordination of international congresses of medical science. The General Conference gave approval to an Indian proposal that the Secretariat study the advisability of calling an international conference in 1950 for the establishment of an international institute of the arid zone on the model of the Hylean Amazon Institute. Approval was also given to a similar United States proposal concerning the creation of an international computation centre.

The 1948 programme contained an item concerning high altitude biology, which had originated in the Peruvian proposal, but this item was dropped by the Director-General from his programme proposals. The conference, however, agreed to a new Peruvian suggestion that a

symposium on the subject be held provided that UNESCO bore no expense.

Members of the natural science sub-commission gave attention to the world-wide problem of conservation and development of food resources and agreed to a United States proposal that UNESCO should suggest to the Secretary-General of the United Nations that he place the question before the Economic and Social Council at its next session. The General Conference approved this proposal and recommended further that the Economic and Social Council initiate joint planning by the specialized agencies to meet the problem.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

The General Conference decided that the project on tensions affecting international understanding should continue to be the principal work of the social science division. The appropriation for this project was increased by ten per cent over the 1948 expenditure. The General Conference adopted a United States proposal that the study of tensions should include a study of techniques and devices used to bring about fascism in Italy and Germany in the period preceding the second world war in order to assist in the early recognition of such movements in the future.

The General Conference issued a directive to the Secretariat to encourage international collaboration in the social sciences by aiding in the formation and operation of an appropriate international organization or organizations. An Egyptian resolution on the foundation of a centre for legal co-operation, (receiving a proposal by Egypt defeated at the Second Session) was again rejected. However, the Conference agreed to a Canadian amendment providing for the study of international collaboration in law within UNESCO's broader study of collaboration in the social sciences. A United States proposal seconded by Canada, that UNESCO should promote education in statistics and, if possible, assist the International Statistical Institute, was also adopted.

The remainder of the programme in Social Sciences followed in general the programme approved at the Mexico City Conference; the resolution on the social implications of science, however, was reduced considerably, and the scope of the study of international collaboration was reduced by the deletion of a paragraph asking the executive board to consider how special studies of the problems of international organization and collaboration may be undertaken by the Secretariat in co-operation with Member States.