

INTRODUCTION

The Canadian report to UNESCO for the year 1951 dealt with two aspects of our relations with the Organization which were then of special interest: the final report of the Canadian Council for Reconstruction through UNESCO (CCRU) which concluded its activities on April 30, 1951, and the report of the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences which was published in June, 1951. There were also references to Canadian participation in the Sixth General Conference of UNESCO which ended on July 11, 1951. Although critical of some aspects of the UNESCO programme and of some phases of Canadian participation in the programme, our report looked forward optimistically to a greater concentration of attention, effort and funds on specific long-term projects, and to a fuller and more integrated endeavour in Canada.

Canadian relations with UNESCO during 1952 and 1953 were not affected by any marked changes in emphasis or approach. The Canadian Council for Reconstruction through UNESCO officially surrendered its charter in April, 1953. Many of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences were implemented, but the Canada Council which the Commission envisaged as the national commission for UNESCO has so far not been established.

During the years under review, evidence continued to accumulate of the widespread sympathy in Canada for the aims and objects of UNESCO, and of a desire to contribute toward international understanding through educational, scientific and cultural exchanges. Nevertheless there was substantial support in Canada for the opinion that the Organization's programme should be brought into still sharper focus and that much remains to be accomplished in the allocation of funds in fields where they can be employed to best advantage. The lack of a national commission for UNESCO in Canada presented certain difficulties, but these were offset to a considerable degree by the generous and often enthusiastic support and active assistance of more than 100 national agencies and organizations. Without the close co-operation and direct assistance of these organizations Canadian participation in the UNESCO programme would not be possible. The amount of time and money freely given by individuals and voluntary groups that sympathize with UNESCO's objectives and purposes is a very real part of the Canadian contribution to the Organization's programme.