

11. SURVEYS OF WORLD ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In the Second Committee the Australian representative submitted a resolution concerning the desirability of surveys on world economic conditions. The Australian resolution requested the Assembly to direct the Economic and Social Council to consider world economic conditions and trends at each session and to propose that the Secretary-General should provide the Council with the necessary economic surveys and analyses.

In a resolution submitted by Poland which called upon Members to carry out recommendations of the Assembly and which dealt with economic and social matters, there was also a proposal that periodic economic surveys be prepared by the Council in co-operation with the Secretary-General, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations. The Committee decided to consider this portion of the Polish resolution in conjunction with the Australian proposal and after preliminary debate by the Committee a joint Australian and Polish resolution was submitted. This resolution provided that the Economic and Social Council should prepare annually a survey of world economic conditions and that the survey should include an analysis of the major dislocations of needs and supplies in world economy. It also provided that the Council should recommend measures to be taken by the General Assembly Member States through the appropriate specialized agencies. This resolution was approved by the Committee and adopted unanimously by the General Assembly, October 31, 1947.¹

In considering the necessity for surveys on world economic conditions and trends, the Canadian delegation held that the initiative for such surveys should normally rest with the Economic and Social Council which was the appropriate United Nations organ to deal with such matters. It was considered, however, that if the General Assembly saw fit to direct the Council on this question, instructions given by the Assembly to the Council should be precise and specific and indicate exactly what information the Council was to provide.

¹The text of this resolution is given in Appendix II, C, p. 228.