

agrarian reforms and action programmes proposed by the Director; e.g. the Mediterranean Project, the World Seed Year and the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

During 1959, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) continued to carry out the programme adopted at the tenth session of the General Conference which was held in Paris in November 1958*. This included the development of UNESCO's three major projects namely, the extension of primary education in Latin America, scientific research for arid lands, and the mutual appreciation of the cultural values of the east and the west. In the regular programme, special attention was given to regional surveys of educational problems in Asia, the Arab states, and Africa south of the Sahara. In the sciences, research projects in marine science and in problems of the humid tropics were carried out, and field studies were made on the social and economic factors affecting the access of women to education in Africa and on the status of the social sciences in Latin America. Various cultural activities were initiated ranging from the opening of a pilot library project in the eastern region of Nigeria, based on the successful experience of similar projects in Asia and South America, to the popularization of art masterpieces by the use of low-cost sets of colour slides selected from UNESCO albums of paintings from several member countries. One of the main activities of the mass communication programme was the world-wide survey, undertaken at the request of the Economic and Social Council, on the problems of assisting less developed countries to build up press, radio, film and television facilities; increased attention was also given to the training of journalists, and a Latin-American centre for higher studies in journalism was established at the University of Ecuador. From its own budget and with its share of the funds provided under the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, UNESCO, at the end of 1959, had more than 250 experts in education, science, cultural activities and mass communications, working on mission assignments in 55 countries.

Through the National Commission for UNESCO Canadian organizations co-operated in many of these projects and in other activities of the Organization. The Commission held its first national conference in Montreal in March preceding the 1959 annual meeting. Over 250 delegates attended the conference to consider UNESCO's programme and Canada's role in it, giving special attention to the major project on the mutual appreciation of eastern and western cultural values.

Following a decision of the General Conference to hold a World Meeting on Adult Education in 1960, UNESCO accepted an invitation from Canada for the Conference to take place in Montreal in August 1960. A Canadian Representative participated in the discussions of the Consultative Committee on Adult Education which was held in Paris in May when plans for the Montreal meeting were drawn up.

The Canadian National Commission and the Department of External Affairs were both represented at the Seventh National Conference of the United States National Commission for UNESCO which took place in Denver, Colorado in September 1959.

In April the Director-General, Dr. Vittorino Veronese, paid his first official visit to Canada since assuming office in December 1958. He was

* See *Canada and the United Nations*, 1958.