

in introducing the report of the Organization suggested that the Council might well feel that this fact was the most outstanding economic and social problem of the years immediately ahead. The inequalities in food supplies which were great before the War have become greater. Production per capita is actually lower than before the War when more than one-half the world's population was suffering from malnutrition. The Council endorsed the opinion of the Food and Agriculture Organization that food production must be at least one or two per cent ahead of the rate of population increase in order to achieve some improvement in nutritional standards. It called on all member states to help to achieve the required increase in food production by programmes adapted to conditions in their respective countries and asked the Food and Agriculture Organization to pay special attention to requests received from under-developed countries for technical assistance in preparing and executing such programmes.

### **Famine Relief**

At the request of the General Assembly (contained in a resolution adopted at its sixth session), the Secretary-General prepared a report for the Economic and Social Council recommending procedures for international action in the event of famine emergencies arising from floods, earthquakes and other natural causes. A plan is proposed whereby the Food and Agriculture Organization will continue and develop its present arrangements for investigation and report on famine emergencies and notify the Secretary-General promptly as to the scope and duration of any emergency developing in any country. The Secretary-General is to co-ordinate famine relief activities of inter-governmental organizations, governments and voluntary agencies. Governments of countries which may be affected by famine are asked to set up in advance arrangements for co-ordinating national effort and for speedy receipt and distribution of aid. The resolution adopted by the Council also made reference to the study being undertaken by the Food and Agriculture Organization on ways and means of setting up a world food reserve to meet emergencies.

### **Newsprint and Printing Paper**

The Secretary-General reported on the world paper situation and was asked to report once again in 1954.

### **World Social Situation**

The discussion of social questions included a debate on a report on the world social situation prepared by the Secretariat and Specialized Agencies concerned. This report was considered in relation to the preparation of a programme of practical action for the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies in the social field, which the General Assembly had requested the Council to prepare. The report is a comprehensive survey, which is the first attempt of its kind to cover the whole field of social problems throughout the world. It reviews conditions in relation to food, health, housing, education and other needs throughout the world and emphasizes the appalling fact that the basic elements of a decent standard of living are still beyond the reach of more than one-half of the population of the world. The report refers also to the awakening of the world conscience in these matters and the increasing realization by the more advanced countries that their own stability and further progress depends on world progress. It refers to the possibilities of improvement and the striking progress which has been made, especially in the field of preventive medicine. The Council has had for some years an annual report on the world economic situation. In the discussion of the report on the world social situation the interdependence of the world social and economic problems was stressed. The debate, in which all countries participated, brought out nevertheless the importance of approaching these