

#### IV. DECISIONS CONCERNING THE EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF UNESCO

Many questions of importance to UNESCO's external relations were discussed at the Third Session by the Official and External Relations Commission under the chairmanship of Mr. David Hardman, M.P., of the United Kingdom. Some of these items were dealt with at joint meetings of the Programme and Official and External Relations Commissions. Few formal votes were required in the Commission, which covered its agenda with remarkable speed.

The question of the representation of UNESCO in the main cultural areas of the world was referred by the Mexico City Conference to the Secretariat for study in consultation with the United Nations and the specialized agencies. At Beirut the Arab States reiterated their request for a service of cultural liaison, and a joint resolution, prepared by the Egyptian, Turkish, Lebanese, Saudi Arabian and United States delegations, instructing the Director-General to promote this service was approved. A long debate took place over a joint Cuban and Brazilian resolution calling for the establishment of a regional centre of UNESCO in the Western Hemisphere. It was finally agreed that the Director-General should establish a regional office in agreement with the Organization of American States and with the Co-ordination Committee of the United Nations.

Discussion of UNESCO's relations with member states was principally concerned with the reports which member states are required to make periodically to UNESCO on their laws and regulations relating to educational, scientific and cultural life, and on action taken to implement recommendations and conventions proposed by the Organization. Various delegates pointed out that UNESCO had requested too much information too vaguely in previous years and it was noted that only nine member states, including Canada, had submitted their reports for 1948 prior to the Third Session. As a result of its discussion, the Commission adopted a resolution calling on the Director-General to communicate to member states a precise outline for the reports for 1949 and requesting member states to submit the reports not later than three months before the opening of the General Conference.

At the Second Session the Director-General was requested to draw up draft regulations for examination at the Third Session on the procedure to be followed for the submission of recommendations and conventions to member states by UNESCO. These draft regulations were presented to the Beirut Conference, but because of their length it was decided that

they should be referred to member states for examination during 1949.

The Commission reviewed the activities of UNESCO in the past year in promoting its activities in trust and non-self-governing territories; the Commission agreed that the promotion of these activities should be continued through the appropriate channels. With respect to relations with Germany and Japan, detailed programmes of action were set forth by the General Conference, with the following objectives:

- (i) To distribute UNESCO documents to interested groups in Germany and Japan.
- (ii) To encourage the exchange of publications in educational, scientific and cultural fields between Germany and Japan and other countries.
- (iii) To study the question of text books in Germany and Japan and to define the criterion that should guide preparation and publication of such text books.
- (iv) To study fellowship particulars for persons in Germany and Japan.
- (v) To encourage objective research by German and Japanese social scientists with a view to promoting a better understanding by the German and Japanese people of their own problems and of their relationship with other members of the international community.
- (vi) To select experts from Germany and Japan to attend technical meetings sponsored by UNESCO.

It was stipulated that any activities of UNESCO in Germany and Japan must be undertaken in agreement with the appropriate authorities.

The General Conference adopted a lengthy resolution proposed by the Official and External Relations Commission on the subject of national commissions and co-operating bodies. Immediately prior to the beginning of the Third Session a meeting was held in Beirut of representatives of these bodies. This meeting made various recommendations to the General Conference intended to increase the participation of national commissions in the programme of UNESCO, to improve the channel of communication between UNESCO and the national commissions, and to promote public interest in the purposes and activities of the Organization. The Conference took note of these recommendations and instructed the Director-General to effect improved liaison with national commissions and co-operating bodies.