

## New Terms of Reference

The decision of the Council to modify the terms of reference of the Commission on International Commodity Trade (CICT) followed a full discussion of the report of the Commission which contained a recommendation that this matter be examined by the Council. The text of the resolution adopted by the Council, with minor revisions, was sponsored by Chili, Costa Rica, France and The Netherlands. It represented a compromise which made it possible for the United States and the United Kingdom to agree to participate in the work of the Commission. Under its former terms of reference, the main task of the Commission was defined as follows: "To examine measures designed to avoid excessive fluctuations in the prices of, and the volume of trade in, primary commodities, including measures aiming at the maintenance of a just and equitable relationship between the prices of primary commodities and the prices of manufactured goods in international trade . . ." In the new terms of reference of the Commission, the words underlined above have been deleted. The main task of this body is now defined as follows: ". . . to study and analyze developments and trends in international commodity trade, including excessive fluctuations in the price and volume of commodity trade and movement in the terms of trade and the effect such developments on both the international and domestic economic position of countries participating in international commodity trade, especially on the economic developments of less-developed countries . . .". The Commission is empowered to bring to the attention of the Council or of governments members of the United Nations its views and recommendations as to the need for governmental or inter-governmental action to deal with particular commodity problems. Other tasks set for the CICT are a constant review of commodity markets and the publication of studies and statistical reports on international commodity problems.

After approval of the new terms of reference of the Commission, the Council elected the full membership of the Commission (18 countries); the following countries were elected: *one-year term*, Argentina, Brazil, Pakistan, Poland, United Kingdom, U.S.S.R.; *two-year term*, Australia, Greece, Indonesia, Sweden, United States, Yugoslavia; *three-year term*, Belgium, Canada, Chili, France, India, Uruguay.

Of these countries, the only new members are Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, and Yugoslavia, which replaced Austria, China, Denmark, and the United Arab Republic.

In a separate resolution, the Council decided to convene a meeting of the reconstituted CICT within the first three months of 1959.

## International Administrative Service

The Economic and Social Council considered at its session in Geneva this summer a proposal by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to set up a small International Administrative Service on a trial basis. Recruiting competent administrators in sufficient numbers constitutes one of the most difficult problems facing many less-developed countries, particularly those who have gained their independence only recently. The ability of a country to make good use of its domestic resources, to develop its economy along sound lines and to absorb economic assistance from abroad with maximum