

as well as for Palestine refugee children. In the health programmes, the benefits will reach:

anti-tuberculosis vaccination campaigns	16,400,000 people
yaws, syphilis and bejel campaigns	3,035,000 people
anti-malaria and other insect control campaigns	7,245,000 people
whooping cough, diphtheria and other immunizations	200,000 people

Nearly one million children will benefit from special feeding programmes.

Report on the World Social Situation

A report on the world social situation, drafted for eventual consideration by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), was given preliminary study by the Council's Social Commission at its eighth session in May 1952. The report was prepared by the Secretariat in response to a request from ECOSOC for a study which would have special reference to standards of living and which would be based on information already in the possession of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies.

The report is by far the most ambitious undertaking which has ever been attempted in this field. Its preparation took the best part of a year, and in the form in which it was submitted to the Social Commission by the Secretary-General it runs to more than 400 mimeographed pages.

The essence of the world's social problem is contained in the following passage from the report: "More than half the population of the world is still living at levels which deny to these people reasonable freedom from preventable disease; a diet adequate to physical wellbeing; a dwelling that meets basic human needs; the education necessary for improvement and development; and conditions of work that are technically efficient, economically rewarding, and socially satisfactory." Moreover, the difference in living standards between the richer and poorer countries has been increasing rather than decreasing. These facts, coupled with the growing realization by the inhabitants of backward areas of the extent of the disabilities under which they live, both explain the current unrest and dissatisfaction in many under-developed areas and emphasize the importance and timeliness of a report which even attempts to assess the problem.

The report has shortcomings and limitations — mainly the result of the terms in which ECOSOC requested its preparation. Since it was to be written with special reference to standards of living, it could not give adequate attention to religions, systems of belief, and other cultural factors which have an important bearing on the social situation in many countries. Since it was to be prepared on the basis of information already in the possession of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies, it was bound to reflect any gaps or inadequacies in the statistical and other material available.