

cultural undertakings of the organization, is clearly the one with the widest popular appeal. And then the conference had to determine Unesco's precise involvement in the world-wide campaign launched in March 1960 to preserve the archaeological treasures of Nubia from being submerged as a result of the construction of the Aswan Dam. It was also asked to examine recommendations on means of facilitating access to museums and of preserving the beauty and character of the landscape.

In matters of mass communication, the specific task of the conference was to examine the public relations programme of the organization itself, and also to appraise its substantial record of achievement in bringing to countries poorly equipped in information media the experience of the more advanced ones, as well as the benefit of the latest discoveries. The special attention paid in this respect to the development of audio-visual means in education is characteristic of the manner in which the various fields of endeavour of the organization are inter-related.

Such is the case also for the other two forms of the organization's activity submitted to the scrutiny of the conference: its international exchange service which administers a substantial programme of fellowships and its relations with the National Commissions for Unesco which exist in almost all member states.

The number and complexity of programme decisions facing the conference led naturally to the consideration of the administrative structure of the organization. While in the past the Secretariat's establishment had been discussed with serious attention, at this session, in view of Unesco's increased responsibilities, the matter was reviewed with even greater care. In addition to more people at the centre, the Secretariat stated its need of more experts in the field. Urgent situations such as that which had developed in the Congo raised the question of whether some sort of a pool could be set up from which experts could be drawn on demand. In turn, the anticipated influx of new staff was bound to create in the near future a demand for more headquarters space; the Director-General had come to the conclusion that this was a problem of the utmost urgency and he did not hesitate, scarcely two years after completion of the three buildings which now form the headquarters, to seek an immediate decision on the construction of a fourth building. The stress which an increased programme thus placed on the administrative facilities of the organization appeared to call also for adjustments in programme planning, budgeting and conference procedures.

In a period of rapid expansion in membership, budget and tasks, and faced with a complex agenda which laid the accent on aid to Africa particularly in education, the session was characterized by the exceptionally high incidence of political issues which further crowded the agenda. It became apparent soon after the opening of the session that Soviet-bloc members were determined to enlarge the scope of the political debates usually restricted to the issues of Chinese representation, the credentials of the post-1956 Hungarian delegation, and Unesco's relations with Communist-front organizations and non-member states. Thus, they injected into the work of the conference, with varying success, discussions on colonialism, disarmament and pacific co-existence. This campaign was combined with a harsh attack on the administration and operations of the organization containing frequent implications of a pro-Western bias and with proposals for retrenchment and structural reforms. Also there were attempts by Cuba to instill into the debate its differences with the United States.