



SEVENTH GENERAL UNESCO CONFERENCE

The Seventh General UNESCO Conference was held in Paris November 12-December 10 with H. E. Sir Sarvepalli Radhakrishman of India acting as chairman. Left to right: Professor E. Carneiro, Brazil; Mr. Torres-Bodet, Mexico, Director-General; Sir Sarvepalli Radhakrishman; and Mr. Howland Sargeant, United States of America, Secretary of the Plenary Conference.

building. The President, Sir Sarvepalli Radhakrishman, urged that this assembly be "conducted with decency and decorum". Then the names of Libya and Nepal were presented and both countries were admitted as new members by the unanimous vote of all countries present.

Uruguay had extended an invitation to UNESCO to hold the Eighth General Conference at Montevideo. There was disagreement on this matter. The United Kingdom, India and some others felt that, although it would help to interest Latin American countries in the work of UNESCO, the expenditure of \$550,000, the interruption of the Secretariat's work, and the inability of governments to send large delegations would offset the advantages of a session in Montevideo. Nevertheless, Brazil, China, Belgium, Pakistan, Lebanon and Italy strongly supported the resolution. They felt that the Conference was under a moral obligation to accept this invitation since in the past the Conference had been held in centres other than Paris, notably Beirut and Florence. The resulting vote was 28 for and 13 against with 12 countries, including Canada, abstaining.

Debate on Budget

On November 21, strong opposition to the budget estimate for the proposed programme for 1953-54 resulted in the debate continuing for two plenary sessions. The Director-General advocated "development" and felt that "stabilization" meant decay. He proposed a maximum assessment level of \$20,439,104. Switzerland, India, the Netherlands and Indonesia supported the increased budget.

The United Kingdom considered that the 1952 level should be maintained and the maximum assessment level should be \$17,436,000. This proposal was supported by Australia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and the United States, New Zealand, Canada, Cambodia, South Africa, and others.