

this too is important, considering the vast field the Council attempts to cover — were recognized as being unattainable in the near future. Moreover, certain international economic problems, formerly dealt with outside the framework of the Economic and Social Council, were given serious attention at this session and, as a result, one or two of these matters may in future be handled by international machinery operated in a form of relationship with the Council. Most of the important items on the Council's agenda, in fact, were of an economic nature. Detailed discussion of some of these subjects appears elsewhere in this chapter and it is sufficient to note here that the session's chief achievements lay in the fields of economic development of under-developed countries, technical assistance, land reform, commodity arrangements and measures to combat restrictive business practices.

The social agenda of the thirteenth session was composed largely of items of a routine nature but it contained two items of considerable importance — the Draft Covenant on Human Rights and the Draft Convention on Freedom of Information. These two questions are dealt with in detail elsewhere in this chapter.

The Council normally holds two sessions in each year. In 1952, however, because of the unusually long duration of the sixth session of the General Assembly, it was decided to compress the two meetings into one. The Council's fourteenth session will accordingly be the only session in 1952. It met in New York on May 20 and was expected to last about twelve weeks. The most important item before this session was a General Assembly resolution requesting the Council to submit a detailed plan for establishing a special fund for grants-in-aid and for low-interest, long-term loans to under-developed countries. As this volume was being prepared, the indications were that the Council would wish to gather more information, particularly from governments, before submitting such a plan to the Assembly. Other items of importance on the agenda were the world economic situation, full employment, the United Nations technical assistance programmes, problems of development of arid land, human rights and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

During the first half of the fourteenth session, there was a greater measure of agreement than many delegations had expected after the discussion of economic and social questions which took place at the sixth session of the Assembly. To some extent this was the result of restraint, on the part of members of the Soviet bloc, in indulging in propaganda statements. More significant, however, was the degree of harmony which was apparent between the representatives of developed and under-developed countries not belonging to the Soviet bloc.

In 1951 and 1952 a great deal of attention has been given by the Council to organizational questions. One of the functions of the Economic and Social Council is to act as co-ordinator of the work of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies. Detailed arrangements have been worked out for this purpose and there is general recognition that the work of co-ordination and the prevention of duplication or over-lapping has achieved great success.