

ECE has co-operated closely with its sister commissions in Asia and Latin America, and has initiated studies on inter-regional trade and commodity problems. An example is the study on trade between Europe and Latin America which was undertaken by ECE and ECLA. More recently, ECE prepared a note for the ECAFE Trade Promotion Conference which was held in Singapore in October 1951, on the position of Europe in regard to the supply of certain categories of capital goods in which the countries of Asia and the Far East were experiencing shortages. ECE has also collaborated fruitfully with the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, notably with the Food and Agriculture Organization. In this process of collaboration, ECE has been careful to avoid as much as possible the duplication of effort which is an almost inevitable result of the allocation of economic functions under the United Nations to agencies established to serve, on the one hand, regional and, on the other, functional needs.

Consultations have been carried on under the auspices of ECE, during the period under review, with the object of promoting the expansion of East-West trade in Europe by means of mutually satisfactory agreements. At the seventh session of the Commission in March 1952, the Executive Secretary was invited to continue to explore with interested governments the practical possibilities of trade expansion, as a possible preliminary step to convening a meeting of trade experts in the autumn of 1952. As long, however, as the countries of the Soviet bloc insist that a substantial proportion of the goods supplied to the Soviet bloc by western countries should be made up of strategic raw materials and capital goods at present subject to export control in Western Europe, it is probably futile to expect ECE to achieve tangible results in this sphere of its activities.

Two meetings of the Commission were held during the period under review, the sixth session in Geneva from May 29 to June 13, 1951, and the seventh session, also in Geneva, from March 3 to March 18, 1952. While Canada is not a member of ECE, it closely follows the more important phases of the Commission's activities through the Canadian Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva, in which city ECE has its headquarters. A Canadian observer also normally attends the periodic meetings of the ECE Timber Committee in whose statistical surveys of timber production and consumption trends Canada participates.

Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East

The work of ECAFE has progressed steadily, and increasingly useful assistance and advice has been given to the governments of the region. This has been particularly true in the fields of flood control, river basin developments, trade promotion, cottage and small scale industries, and industrial development generally. These questions are under continuing consideration by the Commission and its Secretariat. In October 1951 a Conference on Trade Promo-