

in most of the developed countries did not raise serious problems, the debate consisted largely of an examination of the employment situation in member states and of the progress achieved by the Secretary-General and by member states in implementation of the 1950 resolution.

The debate provided a useful occasion for a further exchange of views on the maintenance of full employment. Most representatives recognized that, while it was not at the moment a crucial issue, it was important for ECOSOC and for members of the United Nations to keep the problem under review so that speedy action could be taken if it became necessary. The Canadian Delegation emphasized that full employment should be regarded as one objective of economic policy, among many others, on the same plane as improved standards of living, increased productivity, economic stability and related objectives. The Delegation pointed out that Canada was a country which had wide regional differences within its economy and which depended heavily on international trade; it was impracticable for such a country to agree, as some delegations had proposed at the eleventh session, to bring into play arbitrarily prescribed administrative measures whenever unemployment rose to a given percentage. The Canadian Representative suggested that the timing and nature of compensatory action would be better left to the discretion of national governments acting in the light of conditions prevailing in their particular economies.

A good deal of attention was also devoted, at the thirteenth session of the Council, to conditions of under-employment in some of the less industrialized countries. It was agreed that a discussion of under-employment in these countries should take place each year as part of the Council's debate on economic development generally.

In the full employment resolution of 1950, the Secretary-General had been asked to prepare a report on the long-term balance of payments prospects of individual countries. At the thirteenth session, he pointed out that a study of this kind was unlikely to produce useful results in the uncertain world conditions then prevailing. The justice of this view was recognized by the Council which passed an amending resolution leaving the Secretary-General free to carry out the study when, in his judgment, this would serve a practical purpose.

The question of full employment was again on the agenda of ECOSOC at its fourteenth session in 1952. The debate, however, was not completed during the period covered by this volume. This meeting of the Council had for consideration, in addition to the annual reports of governments, the experts' study on ways of reducing the international impact of business recessions, called for by the 1950 resolution.

### **Restrictive Business Practices**

The thirteenth session of the Economic and Social Council, in September 1951, decided to establish a committee to collect and analyse information on restrictive business practices in international trade. The committee was also to study measures taken by governments to deal with such practices and to restore freedom