

Mr. Torres Bodet, in the report of the Director-General, emphasized the importance of UNESCO'S work in fundamental education. Illiteracy is at the root of many problems in the under-developed areas of the world. A training centre for Latin America has been opened at Patzcuaro, and another for the Arab states is being set up at Sirs-el-Layan. This year a parallel campaign for free compulsory primary education will be sponsored by UNESCO. A regional conference for southern Asia will be held in December in Bombay.

Literacy alone is not enough. Basic problems in improving standards of living must be tackled at the same time. To this end, UNESCO co-operates with the International Labor Office, the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Four seminars were organized this year — two in Europe, on workers' education, and on teaching about the United Nations and human rights, one in the United States, on the role of museums in education, and one in south Asia, on the education of youth for living in a world community.

Sixty-five technical assistance missions are operating in twenty-nine countries of Africa, Latin America, Asia, Europe and the Pacific. Two-thirds of the world's population live in under-developed areas, in countries unable to use their resources because of illiteracy, disease and lack of technical skill. Standards of living in such areas can be improved through technical assistance. UNESCO operates within the Technical Assistance Programme of the United Nations. For example, experts have been sent to Afghanistan to work on oil development, cotton production, control of animal diseases, education, child-feeding, malaria control, and sanitation. In the West Indies, an expert from Iceland was asked to give advice on the use of natural steam from volcanic springs to produce electric power.

Higher living-standards in other countries will create new markets for goods and make new products available to developed areas. Countries of low economic status resent the fact that people in other lands enjoy comforts and necessities which they cannot obtain. The "World Good Neighbour Programme" is a global effort for the achievement of peace, freedom and prosperity.

#### **Director-General's Report**

Delegates from forty-seven countries spoke in the debate on the Director-General's report. They congratulated Mr. Torres Bodet on the achievements of UNESCO in 1952. Many countries, including Sweden, Norway, Canada, Afghanistan, the United Kingdom, Australia, China, Philippines, South Africa, Israel, Korea, the United States and others, stressed the need for greater concentration of UNESCO'S activities and felt that priority should be given to certain important fields of work, in particular the fundamental education and technical assistance programmes.

From this point the work of the conference began to gain momentum. A Legal Committee of 15 members was set up to deal with matters requiring expert advice. Mr. Gerin-Lajoie was appointed to represent Canada on this committee.

One of the first questions to be faced was the right of the Chinese Republic (Formosa) to vote. The Nationalist Government has been in arrears of its payments to UNESCO, and, according to the constitution, it cannot enjoy the right to vote unless special authority is granted. It was decided to recommend to the General Conference that China be permitted to vote during the present session.

The admission of new member states (specifically, Spain) caused lively discussion and for a time the even tenor of the Conference was somewhat disrupted. Protests from both individuals and organizations against the admission of Spain had been received. However, the vote resulted in 44 countries in favour and 4 against, and Spain became a member. There were 7 abstentions and 3 absent. At the moment the result was announced, a shower of leaflets fell from the gallery and a French anarchist shouted "Down with Franco!" He was immediately removed from the