

theme was also dwelt on by a number of delegations in their opening statements to the Assembly. After the election of officers the Assembly appointed an Executive Committee and Technical, Economic, Legal, and Administrative Commissions to deal with the wide variety of topics on the agenda.

Air Navigation Facilities

Probably the most important of the items considered by the Executive Committee was a proposal by the United States for the establishment of a special "task force" of highly qualified individuals to consider present and future deficiencies in international air navigation facilities and recommend measures designed to meet the technical and financial problems arising out of new developments in international air transport. Although there was general agreement that the onset of jet transport on international routes made the question of improved facilities a vital one, a number of delegations took issue with the form of the United States proposal. The Canadian Delegation took the position that the question of air navigation facilities was properly the responsibility of the Council and that the United States proposal, if adopted in the form submitted, would circumvent Council's authority. The Delegation submitted for consideration by the Committee a draft resolution referring the matter to the Council for urgent consideration and suggesting that the Council appoint a special committee and consider employing a panel of experts to deal with the technical and economic aspects of the problem. The United States and Canadian proposals, together with resolutions subsequently submitted by Belgium and France, were referred to a working group for further examination; the final resolution adopted by the Assembly directed the Council to study these problems as a matter of urgency in consultation with the states most concerned and recommended that the Council appoint a special panel of experts. At its post-Assembly session the Council acted on this recommendation and appointed the panel, to serve under the chairmanship of Dr. Warner.

European Civil Aviation Council

The Assembly had before it a proposal for regularizing the relationship between ICAO and the European Civil Aviation conference, the regional organization established under the auspices of the Council of Europe to consider the special problems of civil aviation in the European area. A proposal was submitted under which ICAO would provide secretarial and other assistance to ECAC but would be reimbursed for certain direct out-of-pocket expenses arising out of meetings of the regional body. There was considerable discussion on the question of whether ECAC should not be established as a regional affiliate of ICAO rather than as a separate body, but it was finally agreed that in the special circumstances the compromise arrangement was a reasonable one and it was consequently approved.

The Executive Committee examined proposals by the Governments of Czechoslovakia, Peru, and Bolivia for settlement of their outstanding financial arrears to the Organization. Although many delegations disliked the principle of a retroactive change of assessments which had been carefully screened and approved in past years, it was agreed that special circumstances prevailed in the case of all three of the countries concerned. The proposals of all three countries, involving the scaling down of arrears in varying proportions, were