

I GENERAL SURVEY

The third session of the General Conference of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization was held at Beirut, Lebanon, from November 17 to December 11, 1948. The conference met in "UNESCO Centre", a group of eleven buildings situated in a former French military compound on the southern fringe of the city not far from the sea. The session was formally opened by H.E. the Cheikh Bechara el Khoury, President of the Lebanese Republic, and in the course of the inaugural ceremony speeches were delivered by Mr. Francisco del Rio y Canedo, Head of the Mexican delegation and by Mr. Hamid Bey Frangié, Minister of Foreign Affairs and National Education of Lebanon.

Mr. Frangié of Lebanon was unanimously elected President of the Conference at the first plenary session and the following delegates were elected Vice-Presidents: Dr. Diego Luis Molinari of the Argentine, Mr. Victor Doré of Canada, Mr. King Chu of China, Mr. Georges Bidault of France, Count Stefano Jacini of Italy, Mr. Huseyin Cahit Yalcin of Turkey and Mr. George V. Allen of the United States.

ATTENDANCE

Thirty-seven Member States were represented at the Conference: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Greece, Haiti, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, the Union of South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uruguay, Venezuela. Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Liberia, Bolivia, Ecuador and Honduras did not send delegations. The three eastern European Member States stated that their absence was in protest against the holding of a conference in a country which they considered at war in defiance of the United Nations.

Observers from the following non-member states attended: Ireland, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Siam, Sweden, Switzerland, the Vatican and Yugoslavia. Before the Conference ended Switzerland and Monaco were admitted to membership in the Organization, bringing to forty-six the number of Member States. The provisional government of Israel withdrew the application for membership which it had submitted in the summer of 1948. Observers were present from the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, the International Refugee Organization, and from approximately sixty international semi-govern-

mental and non-governmental organizations.

The Canadian delegation was led by Mr. Victor Doré, Canadian Ambassador to Belgium, who was Chairman of the Canadian Delegation at the first session of the UNESCO Conference in Paris. The delegation consisted of the following persons: Mr. Felix Desrochers, General Librarian of Parliament, Mr. A.W. Crawford, Director of Training, Department of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Charles Jennings, General Supervisor of Programmes, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Dr. John E. Robbins, Director, Education Branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and Mr. J.C.G. Brown, Department of External Affairs, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Discussion of the report of the Director-General on the activities of UNESCO in 1948 was the main item of business in early plenary meetings of the Conference. The report was presented by the Chairman of the Executive Board who spoke at some length when making the presentation. The Chairman's remarks on that part of the report relating to the programme were uncritical of the progress reported. Satisfaction with improvements in the financial administration was recorded, but on the question of internal organization the Chairman stated:

"Some changes have been made in the internal organization of the Secretariat in the course of the year and the Board believes that this is a problem calling for further serious attention on the part of the Director-General. In this connection attention is drawn to the report of the Finance Committee on the Director-General's budget proposals for 1949, and in particular to the observations of the Finance Committee and of the Director-General on the proportion of funds and personnel at present allocated to certain administrative sections of the Secretariat.

"The establishment of a Central Administrative Services Bureau during 1948 and the combination in one organization of the common services required for all of the units of the Organization appears to have produced good results. All of the listed services appear essential to the functioning of UNESCO, but the Board hopes that in the course of time, as equipment is acquired and experience gained, some reduction may become possible on the substantial fraction of the budget which is at present required to maintain these services, as well as in