

Adult Education Conference

In August of 1960, Canada was honoured and happy to serve as the host country to the World Conference on Adult Education, a conference which, perhaps more than any other single factor, brought to the attention of Canadian citizens the nature and quality of UNESCO's responsibilities. This conference in Montreal, which we are most happy to have been assured was highly successful, aroused great interest not only among the many organizations in Canada concerned with adult education; the progress of the conference also received widespread and intelligent notice in the Canadian press, and brought an important part of the work of UNESCO to the interest and notice of the Canadian public which, from this educational conference, received itself a very helpful education in the work and in the objectives of UNESCO. Finally, this last summer, also, a Canadian permanent delegation was appointed to UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

Fifteen Years of UNESCO

Canada in 1945 was one of the 47 founder states of UNESCO and has been, over the years, a strong supporter of UNESCO's activities and purposes. Reasons which led Canada to the conviction that the work of UNESCO was of the greatest importance are still valid 15 years later, and indeed they now carry much more weight. UNESCO, in 1960, is immeasurably stronger than it was 15 years ago; stronger in resources, in membership, of course, and, what is of great importance, stronger in experience and confidence. Over these years Canada has been by no means a purely passive or uncritical advocate of UNESCO's activities. With other member countries, we have had from time to time apprehensions that the necessarily limited resources of UNESCO were in some danger of being spread over too many unrelated activities, and that on occasion the programmes of UNESCO appeared to be unduly ambitious in relation to the financial and not infrequently to the human resources available for projects which may have seemed desirable in themselves, but threw too great a weight of responsibility and of labour upon the growing organization. It is, of course, the duty of a god-parent to keep a careful eye upon his god-child; and this we have done always, I trust, in a spirit not of unhelpful criticism, but rather of affectionate but prudent goodwill.

Budgetary Matters

At the appropriate time, the Canadian delegation will have something to say in detail about the proposed programme and budget under items 15, 16 and 17 of the agenda. While we have been able to support the U.S. proposal as to the provisional budget level, we expect that the detailed examination which is to be carried out in the course of this conference will show that a serious effort has been made to eliminate projects of doubtful value and urgency, and that the proposed increase in staff and programme expenditures are justified.