

manufacture and consumption and to prevent the introduction into trading channels of coca leaf and cocaine which could form the source for illicit manufacture and export of narcotic drugs.

Still further resolutions made recommendations regarding the control of synthetic drugs. All governments were requested to bring synthetic drugs under the control of national legislation.

## **Regional Economic Commissions**

The regional economic commissions of the Economic and Social Council — the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), and the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) — were set up to facilitate concerted action for economic reconstruction after the war, to raise the level of economic activity in these regions, and to maintain and strengthen economic relations among the countries of the regions and with other countries of the world. ECE and ECAFE were established in 1947 and ECLA in 1948. At the thirteenth session of the Economic and Social Council in 1951, the activities and the terms of reference of the regional economic commissions were reviewed and it was decided that the commissions should be continued indefinitely. At the same time, the terms of reference of ECAFE and ECLA were broadened to place more emphasis on questions of economic development and to provide for increased co-operation with the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration.

### **Economic Commission for Europe**

ECE consists of European states, both members of the United Nations and non-members, including all European members of the Soviet bloc, plus the United States. The Commission remains one of the few economic organs of the United Nations in which the countries of Eastern and Western Europe continue to work together towards a solution of specific problems of common concern. In the present state of East-West relations, however, the comprehensive nature of the Commission's membership has tended to hinder rather than to help its work. As long as deep-seated political cleavages continue to cut across the common economic interests of member countries, ECE is unlikely to be able to deal realistically and effectively with some of the more chronic economic problems confronting Europe.

Despite the political factors which tend to impede the activities of ECE, technical committees of the Commission have maintained a consistently high standard of performance. A similar high level of competence has characterized the work of the ECE Secretariat. This is well reflected in the annual and quarterly economic surveys which are prepared by the Research and Planning Division of ECE and which give a comprehensive picture of European economic trends and prospects.