

undertaken on the possibility of establishing an emergency food reserve to assist peoples threatened by famine. The resolution, which had been introduced by the United States, Iran and Uruguay, was adopted unanimously.

Full Employment

Under Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter, members of the United Nations are pledged to promote full employment within their national boundaries and to co-operate with other states for the attainment of this purpose throughout the world. In this context, full employment does not mean the complete absence of unemployment, but rather the maintenance of conditions which provide opportunities for gainful employment for all those willing and able to work. The eleventh session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), in 1950, adopted a resolution which was subsequently endorsed by the fifth session of the General Assembly. The resolution listed a variety of national and international measures which might be taken to ensure the maintenance of full employment. Among other things, member governments were asked to publish annual statements outlining their economic objectives for the following year, to be accompanied, wherever possible, by a statement of quantitative goals or forecasts of employment, production, consumption, investment, and other measurable economic factors which might indicate trends in their economies. Governments were also invited to formulate policies and adopt measures to promote steady economic expansion, to combat recessionary tendencies, to meet unemployment emergencies and to avoid inflation and excessive price increases.

The Council recognized that many of the policies affecting trade which were adopted by governments during the 1930's, in an effort to protect their own economies, tended to spread unemployment from country to country. The resolution therefore recommended that governments avoid policies of this sort. In addition, it emphasized the importance of maintaining a high and stable level of international investment for development purposes, and of achieving balance of payments equilibrium at the highest possible level of mutually beneficial trade. In this connection, governments were called upon to avoid policies likely to have seriously adverse effects on the balance of payments or employment levels of other countries. The resolution urged the reduction of quantitative restrictions on international trade, imposed for balance of payments reasons, and the elimination of exchange restrictions on current account transactions. It also directed the Secretary-General to appoint groups of experts to prepare reports on various aspects of the problem of full employment. One report, for example, was to include an analysis of "alternative practical ways of dealing with the problem of reducing the international impact of recessions". The Council decided to consider each year, beginning in 1951, the problems of achieving and maintaining full employment.

The thirteenth session of ECOSOC, in 1951, was the first occasion when full employment questions were considered under the terms of this resolution. Because, at that time, the state of employment