

ICAO will study in consultation with the Council of Europe the possibility of convening a conference of Western European states to work out methods of improving commercial and technical co-operation among their respective airlines and to achieve closer economic co-operation, possibly by an exchange of commercial rights.

The major achievement during the past year in the legal field was the completion of a Convention on the Damage Caused by Foreign Aircraft to Third Parties on the Surface (opened for signature at Rome on October 7, 1952). To date nineteen states (not including Canada) have signed this convention.

International Labour Organization

The International Labour Organization (ILO) was established in 1919 as an autonomous institution associated with the League of Nations. In 1946 an agreement was signed between the United Nations and ILO which recognized the responsibility of the latter in the field of labour and social conditions. The constitutional structure of the ILO is unique among the Specialized Agencies, as the representatives of labour and management, as well as of governments, join in determining its policies and guiding its activities. The General Conference, which meets once a year, is the policy-making organ; the Governing Body of 32 members is the executive council. Canada holds one of the eight seats assigned to countries of chief industrial importance. The International Labour Office, in Geneva, is the permanent secretariat of ILO. In securing agreement to international standards, among the principal matters with which the Organization concerns itself are regulation of hours of work, industrial relations, social services, welfare activities, wages, and the regulation of the labour supply and the prevention of unemployment. A great deal of work in recent years has been carried on in co-operation with the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.

The 36th General Conference of the ILO, held in Geneva in June, 1953, and attended by government, employer and worker delegates from 58 of the 66 member countries, reviewed in detail the problems faced by the organization. Final approval was given to two formal recommendations; one calling for national action to establish 16 as the minimum age for admission to employment underground in coal mining; and the other proposing a series of measures to protect the health of workers in places of employment. Approval of these brought to 97 the total of such recommendations adopted by the Conference since the establishment of ILO in 1919. These recommendations will be brought to the attention of member governments formally for their consideration and possible action.

No new conventions were added during the year to the 103 which are now in force and which form a broad international standard in the labour field. The latest three conventions drawn up were those adopted at the 35th session of the Conference in mid-1952, relating to social security, maternity protection and holidays with pay in agriculture. All conventions are open to ratific-