

Annex to

Report of Canadian Delegation to
Eighth General Conference of UNESCO

Summary records of the Conference and the complete text of all resolutions approved by it will be printed and issued by UNESCO in due course. Meanwhile, the following decisions of the eighth General Conference of UNESCO may be of general interest in Canada:

A. EDUCATION

The Conference recommended special emphasis on primary education and fundamental education.

1. Fundamental Education aims at giving minimum knowledge to enable uneducated people to improve their condition of life (e.g. health, nutrition, output, etc.) within the environment in which they live. The continuation of the international fundamental education centres at Patzcuaro, Mexico, and Sirs-el-Layyan, Egypt, was approved but the Conference strongly recommended the development of national centres. Dr. W.S. Gray's report on "Methods of Teaching How to Read and Write" will be published in 1955 and field tests will be conducted in India and Africa. An evaluation of literacy campaigns will be made in 1955 and reading material for new literates will be produced. The role of women in fundamental education will be studied.
2. Pre-School and School Education. This project calls for international action in the development and the improvement of school systems and school teaching:
 - (a) The International Bureau of Education, Geneva, and UNESCO jointly sponsor annual conferences on public education and one major problem of school education is studied each year. In 1955 the study subject will be the financing of public education and in 1956 it will be the inspection and supervision of schools.
 - (b) A regional conference on compulsory education will be held in Latin America during 1956.
 - (c) Teaching about the United Nations and Human Rights will be stressed.
 - (d) The project entitled "Education for International Understanding and Cooperation" was carefully considered in the light of a report from a committee of experts. Some of the committee's recommendations were severely criticized but it was agreed that the objective of this project should be maintained in all parts of UNESCO's programme and that national and regional seminars on school education for international understanding and cooperation should be assisted during 1955-56.