

12, 1957*. A number of very important issues were up for discussion at the Council Session. Some of the resolutions adopted by the Council are of a far-reaching character and may produce discussions which could influence future ICEM policies and possibly modify the basic aims and purposes of the Committee as now set out in its constitution.

A brief word might be said here of two main problems discussed at the Session. First, an important discussion took place with regard to the methods of financing ICEM's operations. Secondly, the Council reconsidered ICEM's position in connection with assistance to be given to refugees of European origin who are now leaving mainland China in considerable numbers.

The present system of financing ICEM's operations is extremely complex. Until now, it has been the practice for those governments interested in the particular movement of a migrant to make a contribution towards transportation costs. For example, if a migrant wishes to move from The Netherlands to Brazil, contributions will be forthcoming both from The Netherlands and the Brazilian Governments. Subject to the financial arrangements made with regard to each particular stream of migration, it happens that some movements receive more than adequate financial assistance while others face a deficit; many movements from Europe to Australia are in the latter category. Therefore there has developed a pattern of minus and plus movements, the latter being insufficient to meet the deficit created by the former. In order to meet this deficit, the Council has for the past years resorted to the device of the Special Fund to which member governments contribute on a voluntary basis. During the previous session of the Council earlier this year, there was general agreement that the special fund had proved itself unsatisfactory as a means of covering ICEM's operational deficit and in order to find a more adequate solution, a Working Group composed of representatives of The Netherlands, United States, Australia, Brazil and Italy, examined the problem during the summer months. At its Seventh Session, the Council considered the Working Group's report, the main recommendation of which being that a special budget should be established to cover those ICEM activities classifiable as "international services" e.g. distribution of literature to migrants, information and language interpretation, etc. The Council decided to refer to member governments the recommendations of the Working Group, which will meet again in Washington next February to study the replies.

*ICEM has two main organs: the Executive Committee composed of nine member countries, including Canada, and the Council composed of all 27 member governments. Both the Executive Committee and the Council meet twice a year.