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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL

Survey of the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council held three regular sessions during the period under review—the eighteenth session in Geneva from June 29 - August 6, and from November 5 - December 16, 1954; the nineteenth session in New York from March 29 - April 7 and from May 16-27, 1955; and the twentieth session in Geneva from July 5 - August 5, and in New York from December 5-15, 1955. At the eighteenth session, Mr. Juan I. Cooke of Argentina continued to serve as President of the Council, since his election at the previous session had been for the calendar year 1954; at the nineteenth session, Sir Douglas Copland, the High Commissioner for Australia in Ottawa, was elected President, and served in that office for the two sessions held in 1955. At the twentieth session, Canada, which had not been a member of ECOSOC since 1952 but had been represented at its meetings by observers only, was again elected for a third three-year term, and will serve as a member from 1956-1958.

The valuable and undramatic work of ECOSOC's subordinate and affiliated bodies is referred to in greater detail later in this section. Its eight functional commissions and three regional economic commissions, as well as the ten Specialized Agencies which report to it annually on their year's programmes, are the bodies which do much of the useful, often technical, hard work of improving understanding and facilitating efforts to raise standards of living in the world. Their work seldom makes the headlines, but it contributes steadily to widening the area of international co-operation. Examples of such effort, which is described in greater detail in the following section, are the surveys made of the world's pulp and paper resources and prospects, and the serious study given to the maintenance of full employment and to economic objectives and forecasts of member countries for succeeding years.

Until about 1953, the countries in the Soviet bloc took little part in the practical, co-operative work of ECOSOC's affiliated bodies. Of late, however, they have become rather more active and have opened or renewed relations with many of the Specialized Agencies. This change in attitude is consonant with the present communist emphasis on peaceful co-existence and international co-operation. It is to be hoped that this change truly means the abandonment of former practices and the full acceptance of duties and obligations in this area of constructive international service.

In economic matters, perhaps three developments might be mentioned as of major significance during the period under review. The Regular Programme and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance which help the economically less well developed countries have received broad public support throughout the world. Canada has confidence in and has actively supported both the Regular and the Expanded Programmes, and has announced that, subject to Parliamentary approval, its contribution to the latter will be increased in 1956. The International Finance Corporation will begin operating as soon as 30 countries subscribe the necessary funds; Canada became a member of this Corporation in October 1955 and purchased shares to the value of \$3.6 million. The IFC will encourage productive private enterprises in its member countries, particularly in those which are less well developed. The