

### 13. REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS

At the fourth session of the Economic and Social Council in February, 1947, it was decided to establish Regional Economic Commissions for Europe and for Asia and the Far East to ensure co-operation on problems of reconstruction and economic development in those areas. At the first session of the Economic and Social Council in July, 1947, an *ad hoc* Committee was set up to consider the establishment of a similar Economic Commission for Latin America. Arising from the report of the Economic and Social Council, this question was considered at the Second Session of the General Assembly in the Second Committee. The representative of Chile, the state which was the original advocate of the establishment of the Commission, informed the Committee that, pending receipt of the report of the *ad hoc* Committee, the matter would not be pressed.

In the Second Committee, an Egyptian resolution was introduced inviting the Economic and Social Council to study the establishment of an Economic Commission for the Middle East. In this resolution reference was made to the need for close co-operation between the United Nations and the Arab League. In its original form, the resolution was not acceptable to the Committee and numerous amendments were proposed. The Canadian delegation suggested that all reference in the resolution to collaboration between the United Nations and the Arab League should be deleted since it would be inappropriate to emphasize the position of this organization. The Egyptian delegation, in an effort to meet the various amendments, submitted a second resolution which was eventually adopted by the Committee.

This resolution provides for study by the Economic and Social Council of factors bearing on the establishment of an Economic Commission for the Middle East and notes the instructions already given to the Economic and Employment Commission of the Council to study the general problems connected with the establishment of