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UNEMPLOYMENT

Communication from the International Labour Organization

The Secretary-General has received the following resolution,  
adopted by the International Labour Conference on 1st July 1949:

"The Committee decided without opposition to recommend that the  
Conference should adopt the following Resolution submitted by the  
Czechoslovak delegation and amended as a result of discussion between  
the Committee and the representative of the Czechoslovak Government:

"Whereas the Preamble to the Constitution of the International  
Labour Organisation lays down as one of the main aims of the ILO the  
prevention of unemployment;

Whereas the Declaration of Philadelphia recognises the solemn  
obligation of the ILO to further among the nations of the world  
programmes which will achieve full employment and the raising of the  
standard of living;

Whereas the ILO has been carrying on a number of activities of  
a practical nature which seek to diminish unemployment and to enhance  
the opportunities for effective employment, notably assistance to various  
States in -

- (a) the improvement of employment services;
- (b) the development of vocational guidance and vocational  
training both for young persons and adults;
- (c) the implementation of migration programmes among both  
countries of emigration and countries of immigration; and
- (d) the improvement of social security services;

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Whereas nevertheless in a number of countries unemployment has  
recently been increasing to a considerable extent;

Whereas unemployment undermines the standard of living not only of the unemployed, the partially employed and their dependants but also of employed persons;

Whereas some systems of unemployment insurance or assistance are inadequate as to scope, the level of benefit or allowance and the period of eligibility for benefit or allowance;

Whereas a comprehensive survey of the present situation is desirable as a basis for the discussion of any concrete measures which may appear necessary,

The Conference requests the Governing Body -

1. To give consideration to instructing the Director-General to prepare, without delay, a comprehensive report on the problem of unemployment, including, so far as possible, information relating to -

(a) the situation and trend of employment, unemployment and partial unemployment in the different countries;

(b) the effects of unemployment and partial unemployment upon the standard of living of those directly concerned and their dependants and of all wage earners;

(c) measures taken -

(i) to alleviate the effects of unemployment and partial unemployment

(ii) to raise the level of employment, more particularly by the expansion of international trade, the development of basic industries and other measures directed towards increasing the volume of employment opportunities.

2. To consider the desirability of placing on the agenda of an early session of the Conference the question of unemployment, with a view to achieving fuller and more effective use of manpower, both within each nation and internationally.

3. To instruct the International Labour Office, in connection with its manpower programme -

(a) to continue to follow questions of employment and unemployment with the closest attention;

(b) to co-operate with the United Nations and the specialised agencies directly concerned in the reporting and analysis of employment and unemployment and in the formulation of recommendations to combat unemployment."