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## CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION OF NON-AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

### Action taken under Council resolution 345 (XII)

#### Report by the Secretary-General

1. This report is the fifth to be submitted in accordance with the Economic and Social Council's request that the Secretary-General furnish to each session a statement of specific plans and action taken in compliance with resolution 345 (XII).

#### Action at Headquarters and related activities of experts

2. With reference to that part of the resolution which concerned the survey and inventory of non-agricultural resources (part A) the Secretary-General informed the Council at its sixteenth session (document E/2442) that the ad hoc committee of experts established to study various aspects of the matter of conservation and utilization of iron ore resources had been convened for a first, preliminary meeting to consider questions concerning the scope of the technical papers assigned to the participants, points of terminology and the general structure of the joint report. This meeting took place at Headquarters, 15-19 June 1953, following which the members of the Committee have completed the preparation of their individual technical papers along the lines then agreed upon and have had them exchanged, through the intermediary of the Secretariat, for mutual study. The second and final meeting will be held at Geneva, 9-26 March and will be devoted to the drafting and adoption of the joint report. It is expected that this report will be before the Council at its eighteenth session.

3. Preliminary research concerning problems of the non-ferrous metals industry in under-developed countries has been conducted by the Secretariat and a report is in preparation.
4. The Secretariat is also pursuing studies on the economic aspects of energy production and utilization in the under-developed countries.
5. As regards part B of resolution 345 (XII), authorizing the Secretary-General to undertake, upon the request of Member States, explorations with respect to the holding of international conferences on particular resources or resource problems, no action has been taken inasmuch as no such requests have been forthcoming.
6. With reference to the Council's resolution 417 (XIV), dealing with international co-operation in matters of water control and utilization, it will be recalled that the Secretary-General was requested, inter alia, to promote the development of basic water resource data in furtherance of co-ordinated and co-operative action in this field and in implementing Council resolution 345 (XII). In view of the importance attaching to such action under resolution 463 (XV) of the Council, the Secretary-General is seeking the services of an expert of internationally recognized competence in the matter of multipurpose utilization of water resources and with experience of related work in under-developed countries to assist in the preparation of a report with recommendations on the international co-ordination of water resource development endeavours.

#### Regional activities

7. The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East has pursued its review of current mining activities in the region, including discoveries of new mineral deposits and studies on selected mineral resources, mineral discovery and extraction methods, as well as studies of coal and iron ore utilization. Work is also continuing on the development of water resources, including technical studies concerning international rivers. A conference on water resources development is to be held in Tokyo in May 1954, and a training centre in this field is planned for 1955 in co-operation with the Technical Assistance Administration, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. A study on co-ordinated development of hydro and thermal power and integrated power development has been completed. ECAFE plans to study the hydro-electric potential of each country.

8. By virtue of resolutions adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America at its fifth session the Secretariat of the Commission is examining sources and utilization of raw materials for iron and steel transforming industries in the countries of the region. Further, a study on chemical industries in Latin America has been initiated, dealing, inter alia, with availability of raw materials and problems of their utilization. Work has also been started on an over-all survey of existing and potential energy resources in Latin America.

9. Technical working parties of the Economic Commission for Europe have continued work on coal classification and solid fuel utilization. ECE is also continuing work in such fields as development of hydro-electric resources and transmission of electric power across frontiers.

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