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MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL DAG HAMMARSKJOLD
TO 15TH SESSION OF UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE,
IN GENEVA, 20 APRIL 1960

In my message to you last year I spoke of the importance of the efforts being made by your governments in working in the Economic Commission for Europe towards a common solution of practical economic problems in the whole of Europe. During the past year you have not only continued this work but also have opened up new fields for intergovernmental cooperation in your region. Your work on questions of automation and productivity as well as the Special Meeting on the Organisation and Techniques of Foreign Trade can be mentioned in this connexion.

In my introduction to the revised Programme Appraisal of the United Nations I pointed out that the emphasis in United Nations programmes on assistance to underdeveloped countries, lent additional importance to the work of the regional economic commissions. This is also true of your Commission because of the increasing role which Europe is being called upon to play in the world economy and in the efforts to help the less advanced regions of the world. The work of your Commission and the other regional commissions, while primarily devoted to problems of the respective regions, should strengthen and support the world-wide activities of the United Nations as a whole. The study of production and export of capital goods on which you decided last year is an example of an activity which, while concentrating on the regional aspect of the problem, can also contribute to the United Nations work for the industrialization of the less developed countries.

You are meeting on the eve of important events. We all hope that the impending efforts at improving international relations may bring some progress. Your Commission, too, has a part to play in this process and it is my earnest hope that with an improvement in the political atmosphere you may be able to tackle more effectively some of the crucial problems involved in the confrontation and harmonization of economic policies in your region.

I should like to express my sincere wishes for the success of your present session and my hope that you will succeed in finding solutions to the questions now before you.

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