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Scientific and Cultural Organization  
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Present:

Chairman:

Mr. NORIEGA (Mexico)

Members:

Australia

Mr. WALKER

Belgium

Mr. DELHAYE

Brazil

Mr. MURTINHO

Canada

Mr. DAVIDSON

Chile

Mr. SCHNAKE-VERGARA

China

Mr. YU

Mr. TSAO

Denmark

Mr. BORBERG

France

Mr. BORIS

Mr. KAYSER

India

Sir Ramaswami MUDALIAR

Iran

Mr. ENTEZAM

Mexico

Mr. de ALBA

Pakistan

Mr. AKHTAR

Peru

Mr. CABADA

United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland

Mr. CORLEY SMITH

United States of America

Mr. KOTSCHNIG

Also present:

Mr. Hernán SANTA CRUZ

President of the Council

Representatives of specialized agencies:

International Labour Organisation

Mr. ALVARADO

Mr. COX

Food and Agriculture Organization

Mr. OLSEN

United Nations Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Organization

Mr. TORRES BODET

Mr. de BLONAY

Mr. BERKELEY

Mr. TERENCE

Representatives of specialized agencies (continued):

International Civil Aviation Organization	Mr. MARLIN
International Telecommunication Union	Mr. MULATIER

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

Category A:

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions	Miss SENDER
International Federation of Christian Trade Unions	Mr. van der PLUYM
World Federation of United Nations Associations	Mr. EVANS

Category B and Register:

Commission of the Churches on International Affairs	Mr. MOURAVIEFF
Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations	Mr. WEILL
International Catholic Union of Social Service	Miss de ROMER
International Co-operative Women's Guild	Miss ROSSIER
International Council of Women	Mrs. DREYFUS-BARNEY
International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues	Miss de ROMER
International Union for Child Welfare	Miss DINGMAN Miss FRANKENSTEIN
Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations	Mrs. DREYFUS-BARNEY
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom	Mrs. BAER
World Jewish Congress	Mr. RIEGNER
World's Young Women's Christian Association	Mrs. BERESFORD FOX

Secretariat

Mr. Laugier

Assistant Secretary-General  
in charge of the Department  
of Social Affairs

Mr. Martin Hill

Director of co-ordination for  
specialized agencies and  
economic and social matters

Mr. Urquhart

Secretary to the Committee

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (item 37 of the agenda) (E/1688, E/1688/Add.1, E/AC.24/L.10, E/AC.24/L.13 and E/AC.24/L.15)

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the first item on the agenda for the day was consideration of the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (E/1688 and E/1688/Add.1). It was his privilege, not only as Chairman, but also as a representative of Mexico, to welcome Mr. Torres Bodet, Director-General of UNESCO. The Director-General was a compatriot distinguished not only in his own country, but throughout the world, where his name was greatly honoured.

On behalf of the Committee, he also extended a welcome to Mr. Hernán Santa Cruz, President of the Council.

He believed UNESCO's report was at the moment of the greatest importance, in that it covered new phases of development in the Organization's work directed towards promoting the general welfare of mankind and the advancement of human dignity.

Mr. TORRES BODET (Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), recalling that when he had first reported to the Council on UNESCO's activities in July 1949 he had been in office for only six months, said that the report (E/1688) he was presenting to the Council represented the balance sheet of a full year's work. That work had been marked by a heightened rhythm of activity, despite the extra burden imposed on the Organization by the necessity of holding three sessions of its General Conference between November 1948 and May 1950, in response to the wish expressed by the United Nations in 1948 that the Conference should henceforward be held in the spring,

Chapter II, on the execution of UNESCO's 1949 programme, formed the larger part of the report. That programme, which had been adopted in 1948 and but slightly modified by the Fourth General Conference in 1949, primarily reflected UNESCO's desire fully to explore in its early years the whole of the province entrusted to it; It was therefore distinguished by a great variety of projects.

However, the wish to secure the best return from UNESCO's limited resources had led him, with the Executive Board's approval, to introduce a scale of priorities for the execution of UNESCO's tasks; even that was purely a rule-of-thumb arrangement. The drafting of a new programme for 1951 had afforded the Executive Board with an opportunity of concentrating and rationalizing the programme by re-arranging the items by the ends pursued, instead of by subjects or by the technique employed.

The new classification, which had been approved by the Fifth General Conference held in May 1950 in Florence, differed from the old mainly in the formulation of ends pursued in the shape of the following three major objects, which he would mention in ascending order of complexity and importance. First, the organization of co-operation between specialists for the collation and dissemination of knowledge and research. Secondly, the promotion of the utilization of such knowledge and research with the object of improving living standards and enhancing human dignity. And, thirdly, the enlistment of all forms of intellectual activity for strengthening international understanding.

UNESCO had made notable progress in respect of the first point. As was shown in Chapter IV, the network of international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, associated with UNESCO's activities was becoming increasingly close-knot. UNESCO had not only co-operated with existing organizations; it had also promoted the foundation of new bodies, where necessary, or of Councils linking up a number of organizations concerned with related or complementary subjects. In that respect the year 1949 had been very fruitful. But over and above the activities of those organizations, UNESCO had increased its own efforts to effect exchanges of information. It had assembled documentation on certain subjects for the first time; for example, on fellowships and other available facilities for study abroad, and on the technical resources of the press, the cinema and the radio. It had pushed ahead with the organization of bibliographical services, set up liaison services such as the Field Science Co-operation Offices, and promoted research into technical questions such as the unification of the Braille system.

However, UNESCO considered intellectual co-operation and the exchange of information among specialists, not as ends, but as means to ends. They were the permanent services which must be secured in order to make it possible to mobilize intellectual forces internationally, at the right moment and with clear objectives, to do practical work for peace and social progress. The paucity of UNESCO's financial resources and the complexity of the problems had hitherto prevented the Organization from embarking on any far-reaching activities of that kind. It had been unable to advance beyond the stage of research and demonstration; however, its demonstrations had progressed far enough to make apparent the value of wide application of those lessons. For example, in 1949 UNESCO had launched a scheme of missions of educational experts; and the scheme was to be extended to new fields during 1950. UNESCO's pilot projects in fundamental education had led it to decide to set up a production and training centre for specialised material and staff; and at its seminars suitable techniques were being devised, through the pooling of experience, for specific problems such as those of illiteracy and adult education in rural communities. UNESCO had convened conferences of experts, and carried out investigations to assess the state of knowledge or news about topical questions, campaigns to draw public attention to important scientific questions such as the preservation of natural resources, and appeals to mobilize the spirit of human fellowship for the relief of those afflicted by war or natural calamities.

The experience thus gained had enabled UNESCO to make a contribution to the plan of technical assistance for economic development described in Chapter V of the report. With the unanimous approval of the General Conference, UNESCO was preparing to play its part in carrying out that plan; it was convinced that social improvements within its province were essential to any thorough and enduring economic development.

UNESCO never forgot its responsibility for promoting international understanding, which was its most difficult task. Any major undertaking in that field required considerable progress in the other two fields he had mentioned. UNESCO's work for the promotion of international understanding was of necessity pioneer work; consequently, its activities in that field had to date consisted

principally of studies and research, for example, into methods of improving school textbooks, into adult education, into the causes of collective tensions and the means of reducing them, and into modern forms of international co-operation.

UNESCO had, however, taken further immediate action through teaching and the dissemination of information. For example, at the request of the United Nations, it had taken action, which would be accelerated in the near future, to promote teaching about the United Nations and the dissemination of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To combat race prejudices, it had launched a third campaign based on a statement which distinguished geneticists and anthropologists had helped to prepare, and which was bringing the general public the latest scientific knowledge on the question.

The significant decisions taken at the Fifth General Conference set the salient features of the Organization's activities in 1949 in their true perspective, and indicated the extent to which the Organization had grown.

Not only had the coming year's programme and budget been drawn up at the last General Conference, but for the first time a basic programme and methodology had been established. The basic programme formed a master plan; each annual programme would mark one stage of its execution. That plan made for stability, and added coherence to the Organization's aims and purposes. Concentration and execution would thereby be facilitated. The critical evaluation inherent in the drawing up of a methodological scheme also bore witness to the progress achieved by UNESCO

The pre-requisite conditions for the successful pursuit of activities had been studied realistically. The increase in UNESCO's membership, which had risen by 15 between 1 January 1949 and 1 January 1950 was more than a mere material reinforcement; it was a valuable stimulus. It was indispensable



to UNESCO's functioning that the greatest possible variety of points of view be represented within it. Intellectual life was built on exchanges and comparisons, and peace could only be achieved through understanding and respect for diversity of opinion and aspiration, and not through the doctrinaire uniformity which so swiftly beget intolerance. Universality was the fundamental premise of UNESCO's work, which was imperilled by empty places in the conference hall. Hence, every new accession was not solely of theoretical significance, but guaranteed an improvement in the quality of the Organization's work.

But to be profitable, the accession of new members must be followed by their effective participation in the collective effort. Specialized agencies were only too frequently considered as mere international administrative structures. While in the early period of UNESCO's existence it had been essential that the Secretariat play an important role as the Organization gained in stability, the significance and reality of the whole enterprise must depend on the interest and activity of Member States. The General Conference had clearly appreciated that point, and a serious effort had been made to correct the disproportion between the respective responsibilities of Member States and the Secretariat. To the programme, which in the past had consisted mainly of instructions to the Director-General, had been added recommendations to Member States for specific action which would either be introductory or complementary to the work of the Secretariat. The General Conference had also decided to devote more attention to the annual reports from Member States, and had adopted measures which would undoubtedly give the latter a clearer sense of their responsibilities in the execution of the programme.

One method whereby those responsibilities could be fully discharged was that of strengthening the National Commissions, which were the appropriate

organs for enlisting the spontaneous intellectual forces of all nations. It was therefore on them that UNESCO's future really depended. Although there were at the present time 47 such Commissions, as compared with 32 on 1 January 1949, many of them lacked the authority or the means to undertake effective action. That problem had been examined by the General Conference, which had adopted the recommendation of the representatives of National Commissions assembled at Florence urging governments to take certain practical steps to enable the Commissions to play a more active part in UNESCO's work.

Finally, the General Conference had agreed that the time was now ripe to develop inter-governmental action through the medium of recommendations or conventions. As a result of two years research and negotiation carried out in close co-operation with the Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization, the Conference had adopted a draft agreement on the free importation of educational, scientific and cultural material. Furthermore, it had drawn up the general outline of a universal copyright convention, and had decided to consider the preparation of a draft convention relating to the protection of monuments and other objects of cultural importance, and another on financial assistance for the preservation of monuments.

Since the Economic and Social Council was now engaged in framing an International Covenant of Human Rights, that new policy was particularly deserving of attention. Indeed, the General Conference had specially studied the problem of making economic and social rights legally binding, and had instructed him to put before the Council the conclusions which had been arrived at as a result of investigations carried out by the Secretariat on the implementation of the right to education, of the right to take part in the cultural life of the community, and of the right to the protection of intellectual property.

Whatever progress, however, was achieved in the Organization's ideas about co-operation by Member States, and however much the national and international machinery for it was improved, its effectiveness clearly depended above all on the resources made available to it. So far those resources had undeniably

remained quite incommensurate with the responsibilities entailed by the Constitution. The heavy financial drain on Member States as a result of the present trend of events was not under-estimated, and it was understood why during UNESCO's early formative period a modest budget had been deemed appropriate. Lately, however, the Organization had been shown capable of carrying out important tasks, and a definite policy had been adopted. The moment seemed to have come for UNESCO to conform to its founders' intentions and embark on far-reaching enterprises likely to have a real influence on the state of the world.

From 7,683,000 dollars in 1948, UNESCO's budget had risen to 7,780,000 dollars in 1949 and to 8,000,000 in 1950; for 1951 it was to be 8,200,000 dollars. The increases were very small in view of the rise in the number of Member States, and were barely adequate to cover the automatic increase in the irreducible overheads. Frankly, resources on that scale permitted the provision of no more than a minimum of services, and precluded the prosecution of the bold undertakings which the peoples of the world were entitled to expect from the concerted effort of 59 States. In order to take the decisive step from the stage of symbolic gestures, studies and pilot projects to that of major achievement, a substantial increase was essential.

It was true that the scheme of technical assistance for economic development would supply UNESCO both with new resources and with a wider field for its activities, but the gain would be no more than temporary, because every expansion in the radius of technical assistance would reveal more clearly the vastness of the world's needs in education and science. The satisfaction of those needs on a scale and at a pace corresponding to that of the economic development that would have been set in motion by UNESCO would be impossible from the domestic financial and technical resources of the countries in question. Direct international aid would prove necessary to avoid a world-wide unbalance more formidable even than that which at present existed. For the peoples would have become more keenly aware of the inequalities they suffered under. That was when the inadequacy of UNESCO's resources would appear in its full gravity. Was the Organization to let itself be taken by surprise? Was it going to cheat the hopes of human emancipation, which it itself had awakened, or evade the duties

of international solidarity which were the reasons for its existence? The start of large-scale technical assistance should be the signal for considering, and at once taking steps to secure a substantial increase in the means of direct action within the ordinary programme and budget.

For all the above reasons stabilization of the budget at its present level would be fatal to UNESCO. The Fifth General Conference had shown its understanding of that fact by adopting a general resolution asking Member States to consider the possibility of augmenting the Organization's resources in 1951 by financing special projects on the basis of voluntary subscriptions, whether governmental or private, outside the ordinary budget. That procedure would be employed in the current year to secure the funds required for intensified activity in Germany, while other projects were under consideration for submission to the next session of the General Conference.

That method of financing was, however, really a temporary expedient to overcome the current obstacles to any considerable increase in the ordinary budget, and was perhaps a little dangerous, as it tended to disturb the balance between the contributions of Member States and with it that corporate spirit which it was so important to maintain. Accordingly, the General Conference had recommended that voluntary subscriptions for such special projects be furnished on the widest possible international basis, as had happily been the case with the scheme of technical assistance. In any event, that abnormal method of financing was, in the immediate circumstances, the only way to avoid stagnation and impotence.

The question which had set the tone for the whole of the proceedings in Florence had been that of UNESCO's contribution to the United Nations' work for peace. The General Conference had unanimously considered that that was UNESCO's essential function. It had also felt that UNESCO's contribution should not take the form of more or less spectacular enterprises independent of the programme, for those might cause confusion and deflect the Organization from its proper and important tasks. The opinion had rather been that the obligation could be fully met by effective execution of the programme.

It was true that the programme, by UNESCO's very terms of reference, was concerned with non-political problems, but it was no less certain that, directly or indirectly, those problems had political repercussions, relating as they did to the very social and spiritual fabric of civilization. Only it must be realized that, in the complex action of the intellectual on the political, there was little prospect of any immediate effect on the world's fate. The deeper the action went, the longer its effects would take to be felt. Courage would be needed to recognize the fact, and patience to accept it.

Courage and patience had never been harder of attainment than in the anxious days through which all were living, when peace was being so urgently menaced. Yet for that very reason both had never been more necessary. At a time when the political problems of peace had reached their most acute stage, and when the balance of physical power was becoming an increasingly important element in deciding them, the assertion of the primacy of the social, and in particular of the spiritual factor - the postulate on which all UNESCO's work was based - was a precept of the highest value. Such an affirmation of faith in human progress was an affirmation of confidence in peace; and that in itself made for peace.

It was regrettable that the fact of the material inter-dependence of States had won acceptance more swiftly than had that of the intellectual and moral solidarity of peoples. Nevertheless, international co-operation required above all an international spirit, as had been fully appreciated by the authors of the San Francisco Charter who, taking up the work of the League of Nations, had recognized the importance of undertakings such as the International Labour Organisation, and had provided for a series of specialised agencies whose exclusive purpose was to awaken and develop the international spirit by giving to the world inter-dependent as it was, the will to unity both as a rock to build on and as the objective, the attainment of which should crown its labours.

Those agencies were the principal innovation in the United Nations system. Amid the difficulties of the hour the great promises which had accompanied their birth and the constructive possibilities inherent in them must not be forgotten. On them largely depended the establishment of that twentieth-century human order which had still to be built, and even to be conceived.

It was natural that the United Nations and their specialized agencies should have met with a thousand obstacles in action. The unceasing sacrifices which they demanded from all did not always or easily awaken enthusiasm. The need had to be met by steadily strengthening the political security machinery of the United Nations, by mobilizing resources great enough to enable the specialized agencies to carry out their work, work which might not lose sight of practical reality. All this required care and unceasing generosity.

Even among men of goodwill he knew that there were many who wondered whether the provision of education for the ignorant, care for the sick and food for the hungry would really serve to stave off war. Yet one truth that must be ever kept in mind was that there was no real peace without economic justice and social progress. To extend the political responsibilities of the United Nations without increasing to a corresponding or even greater degree the economic and social activities of the specialized agencies would be to throw the whole system out of balance, and repudiate the principles on which it was based. In existing circumstances, it would mean yielding under the guise of realism to the most disastrous defeatism. More than ever, it was essential that international co-operation should achieve acceptance by the scope and effectiveness of what it did, and that the specialized agencies set up to that end should show the people, no longer merely by symbolic illustrations or exhortations, but by practical achievements, all the dignity and happiness that peace brought with it.

Peace had been defined as unending creation. It was in hours of difficulty that it was most important to remember that. It was then, above all, that humanity must be made to understand that agencies such as the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization had not been created to knock together a jerry-built world of tomorrow during an uneasy truce, but to pave the way, despite tensions, or even wars, for the dawn of the economic and social justice without which, as he had said, there was no true peace.

On behalf of the Committee, the CHAIRMAN thanked the Director-General for his clear and comprehensive statement.

Mr. BORIS (France) said he wished at the outset to express the French delegation's deep appreciation of the fact that the Director-General of UNESCO had decided to come himself to submit his Organization's clear, comprehensive, and well-arranged report in such an eloquent and moving manner.

He confessed that, when reading Annex 4, he could not help feeling aghast at the many and varied tasks for which the Director-General had been made responsible. But after hearing Mr. Torres-Bodet, he had lost all his feelings of anxiety and scepticism, and was now convinced that the Director-General would successfully carry out all the tasks which fell to him.

The Director-General had himself said that peace was "an unending creation" and, therefore, the French delegation was happy to note that UNESCO had chosen the path of continuous progress. It was significant that the present discussion had begun at a time when, in a very grave international situation, UNESCO had just presented the Council and world opinion with two "acts", namely, the Brussels meeting of experts to improve history textbooks - which was one of the most effective methods of combating war - and the publication of a scientific report on the question of race. Within a very few days that report had created a sensation throughout the world, since it showed that the conception of race was nothing but a myth devoid of all scientific foundation.

In the UNESCO report, the Director-General had submitted not only the Organization's balance sheet, but also an account of its future prospects, which should be examined with due regard to the results achieved and the world economic situation. An examination of the results recorded in the report and of the decisions adopted at the Fifth General Conference recently held at Florence showed that, as the Director-General had so well expressed it, UNESCO had explored the whole of the province committed to it. Over several General Conferences the main points of its programme had remained unchanged. That comparative stability in its activities had enabled it to establish the basic programme and annual programmes to which the Director-General had referred.

UNESCO had likewise gained an awareness of the techniques and methods which it must apply in order to achieve effective results. Many examples were to be found in the report, among them seminars, grants and missions of educational experts. There again, the experience acquired had seemed sufficiently varied and conclusive to enable, if not a codification, at least an inventory, of facilities to be produced, which had resulted in the adoption by the General Conference of a list of methods and facilities.

But that was far from the whole of UNESCO's work in that field. The Organization had been obliged to prepare directives concerning relations with the non-governmental organizations and had also worked out rules for the preparation and adoption of international conventions and recommendations to Member States. The French delegation wished to stress its appreciation of the work done by UNESCO in the former connexion. Moreover, was it not the duty of that Organization, which aspired to become the conscience of the United Nations, to become conscious itself of the tasks which fell to it and of the means by which they could be achieved?

UNESCO had already succeeded, to the best of its ability, in coping with a large number of those tasks. The French delegation wished to congratulate it on the results it had obtained in the field of specialist collaboration and exchanges of technical information.

The policy to be followed with regard to international organizations had presented various problems: it had been found necessary to find ways and means of co-operating with existing organizations, to introduce a measure of order into their chaos, and, where necessary, to create new associations. In general, the policy so far followed had met with success, and UNESCO had recently been able to make use of the experience thus acquired to formulate directives for its relations with those organizations.

UNESCO had also successfully carried out another essential task - the collection and distribution of extensive documentation in the fields of education, science and culture.



Another function of UNESCO was to enlist the various types of intellectual activity in the service of international understanding. There, as the Director-General himself had honestly admitted, UNESCO had been less successful. Something had been done, in certain directions at least, such as instruction in the purposes and principles of the United Nations and dissemination of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But it was very little indeed compared with what was required, particularly in the field of the social sciences.

According to the Director-General, the chief obstacles were that the performance of such a function pre-supposed very considerable achievements in the two other fields he (Mr. Torres-Bodet) had mentioned, and that the relevant techniques were less well developed. The French delegation believed those factors to be very important. There was, however, another of no less importance; action of that kind in the service of international understanding called for the greatest exertions and the largest, most difficult contributions from Member States. Those States must not only supply information and answer enquiries, but take positive steps, possibly entailing changes in their national legislation, their administrative customs and the doctrines inculcated in their schools. Such co-operation from Member States would do much to increase the effectiveness of UNESCO's efforts. It was in that sphere, rather than in the field of finance, that the French delegation would wish UNESCO to ask Member States for a greater measure of co-operation.

Stabilization of UNESCO's budget appeared to be a feature of the present stage of the Organization's development. The Director-General deplored that stabilization, and saw in it a cause of decay. But was it possible for large increases in the budget to continue? States were unlikely to agree to such increases simply as a result of having the work which UNESCO should do, and the means put at its disposal for actually doing it, laid before them for comparison, since it was equally possible to compare national requirements in the fields of education, science and culture with the credits allocated to meet them. There was no doubt whatever, idealistically speaking, that the

financial resources of UNESCO ought to be increased. On the practical side, the French delegation would confine itself to mentioning that the States represented at Florence had undertaken to re-examine the question of the size of the UNESCO budget in 1951; but in view of the fact that the examination would be unable to provide UNESCO with additional funds for 1950 or even for 1951, the Organization had decided to take advantage of a provision of its Constitution allowing it to accept State or private funds over and above its normal budget for allocation to special projects.

The French delegation had not accepted that procedure at Florence without making the most express reservations. Indeed, it considered that that procedure entailed a serious risk to the very existence of UNESCO. So far, the financing of the budget and, consequently, of the Organization's work by all Member States had shown, in respect of every undertaking, however specialized or localized, that universal solidarity which it was the purpose of UNESCO to promote. If a State or group of States could henceforth provide funds for allocation to projects of special interest to it or them, was there not an obvious risk that UNESCO might be used by certain States for purposes that were of more interest to those providing the funds than to the Organization itself? Moreover, the Director-General himself had foreseen that danger. The provisional character which he attributed to that method of financing and the conditions with which he had surrounded it, had done something to allay the French delegation's misgivings.

He wished to emphasize that the increase in credits voted by Member States was only one method - not necessarily the most important - of making the necessary improvement in the collaboration of those States with the UNESCO Secretariat. It was in the continuous review and improvement of that collaboration in all its aspects, not only, or even principally, in a financial form, that the French delegation saw the surest guarantee for the development and effectiveness of the Organization. But collaboration on the part of certain States had fallen off considerably. Poland had sent no delegation to Florence; and Czechoslovakia and Hungary had recalled their delegations after

the General Conference had taken a decision, which they had found unacceptable, on the representation of China.

Against the satisfactory increase in the number of Member States announced by the Director-General there must be set the disturbing manifestations which were endangering the efforts made by UNESCO to improve its position as representative of the world community. If, rather than the number of States represented, the diversity of their economic and social systems were taken into account, it was impossible to believe that UNESCO had approached any nearer to its ideal of universality during the recent past, in spite of the recent accession of Yugoslavia, in addition to other States. That was a fact which the French delegation wished to emphasize most strongly; it was of vital importance for the success of the work which UNESCO desired to carry out, and must carry out, for the peace of the world.

Concern for that work had characterized the recent discussions of the deliberative bodies of UNESCO and the public speeches of its Director-General. In face of the special difficulties of the existing international situation, UNESCO, and especially its Director-General, were trying to bring the work into closer touch with present-day realities.

The French delegation wished to express to the Director-General of UNESCO its satisfaction at the work already accomplished, and to state that it considered his presence at the head of that Organization as a guarantee that it would not fail in the particularly heavy task now incumbent on it. It affirmed that the French Government would continue, as in the past, to give the Organization and its Director-General all the material and moral support within its power.

Mr. MURTINHO (Brazil) said he would like first of all to join the French representative in thanking Mr. Torres Bodet for coming in person to present the report of UNESCO.

He had listened with the greatest attention to the Director-General's remarks. Apart from the Annexes, the report which the latter had just submitted

to the Committee was in fact similar to the report presented to the Fifth General Conference of UNESCO. The Brazilian Government had then enthusiastically approved the report through its Minister of Education, who had himself gone to Florence to demonstrate the Brazilian Government's interest in the work of UNESCO. Incidentally, that had been the first time that a Brazilian Minister, other than the Foreign Minister, had taken part in the work of one of the United Nations specialized agencies.

In the first place, the Brazilian delegation shared the Director-General's view as to the disequilibrium which had begun to become apparent between the responsibilities of Member States and the Secretariat respectively. Without the effective collaboration of Members, the efforts of UNESCO would be in vain. To promote better co-ordination, at national level, of the activities connected with the implementation of the UNESCO programme, the Brazilian Ministry of Education was at that moment studying the possibility of setting up a special organ to work in conjunction with the Brazilian National Cultural Commission ("Comissão Nacional de Cultura"), which had been one of the first to be set up.

The Director-General had referred to a campaign to be undertaken by UNESCO to combat racial prejudice, taking as its starting point the statement on equality of race drawn up by eminent scholars. The French representative had rightly pointed out the importance of and necessity for that campaign.

In that sphere, Brazil could undoubtedly make a significant contribution. Although the population of Brazil consisted of three races of different origin, Brazil had succeeded in eliminating practically all race prejudice. Hence the Brazilian Government had warmly welcomed the resolution of the Fifth General Conference authorising the Director-General to institute a sample enquiry in Brazil on contacts between races or ethnic groups, with a view to determining the economic, political, cultural and psychological factors favourable or unfavourable to good relations between such races or ethnic groups. In that respect, he assured the Director-General that UNESCO could count on whole-hearted co-operation from the Brazilian Government in carrying through that enterprise.

Turning to the financial problem, he wished to emphasize two particular aspects: first of all, the decision reached at Florence under Resolution 311, by which expenditure for 1950 would be so controlled that total expenditure did not exceed income. Although that measure had been taken at the same time as the decision to utilize financial resources other than regular funds - a decision which some people might be inclined to question - it was nevertheless praiseworthy. It showed a firm resolve not to run up a deficit, and to deal with the finances of the Organization in a thoroughly realistic spirit.

Secondly, he wished to express the satisfaction of his Government with the plan submitted by the Director-General to the Florence Conference on arrangements for payment of contributions by Member States. That proposal, by which all Members would pay part of their contribution in hard currency and the rest in non-convertible currencies, had unfortunately not been accepted by Member States. In that connection, he ventured to draw the Committee's attention to paragraphs 35 and 36 of the seventh report to the Council of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (E/1682). He had not wished to comment on it before hearing what explanations the Director-General might have had to make.

Mr. de ALBA (Mexico) said that the atmosphere of solemnity prevailing in the meeting was of supreme value and significance, for it demonstrated complete confidence in the labours of UNESCO and constituted a recognition of the efforts of its Director-General. It also felt that the presence of the President of the Council, the leaders of delegations and the strong representation of the specialized agencies deserved to be recognized as showing that the efforts of UNESCO were appreciated, and that all present believed in that Organization and its work.

The Committee had listened with the greatest interest to the statement of the Director-General. As the representative of France had observed, all had been very much concerned at the heavy responsibilities assigned to the Director-General, as set out in Annex 4 of the Report, and nothing but the deepest admiration could be felt for the faith and perseverance with which those

charged with the implementation of the Organization's programmes were facing their task, despite prevailing difficulties, and so bearing out the hope that had been placed in the Organization.

UNESCO had been born with the best wishes of the whole world to carry out work on behalf of the common man, and during the years of its existence its greatest achievement had been what it had accomplished for the common man and for the masses. One great quality of the Organization was that while it pursued the highest of ideals, it also reflected popular ideals. The faith shown in UNESCO must be a great source of encouragement to those who worked for it.

The large number of projects and proposals with which the Organization was flooded from all sources lent a sense of reality to the work of the Organization, and had made it vitally necessary for the Director-General to be clearly aware of the Organization's objectives and to keep them well in view. From what the Director-General had said of systematizing programmes and establishing priorities, it was obvious that he was aware of his responsibilities and that the Organization would be able to carry through its complicated programmes satisfactorily.

He then turned to certain projects on which UNESCO laid considerable emphasis, such as those of fundamental education and the related pilot projects which were being actively developed in Mexico, and stressed the need for the vigorous stimulation of art and scientific investigation.

The Director-General had laid considerable emphasis on the National Commissions, of which there was a large network covering the cultural map of the world; they played an important part in the development of the general programme by enabling countries to contribute effectively to that work. UNESCO could only fulfil expectations and meet the needs of the times if it were ~~adequately~~ supported in that manner.

From among the numerous and inter-related problems with which the Organization had to deal, he singled out for special mention the question of the elaboration of an international convention on copyright. That subject had been considered by many conferences of different kinds at different times, but

so far no convention had emerged. It was therefore gratifying that UNESCO was to undertake the task, and he was sure that it would bring order into the existing disorder on the subject.

With reference to the question of limiting the budget, which had been referred to by the Director-General, he could not see how UNESCO could possibly develop the use of visual media, radio etc. without the assistance that might become available from private organizations. UNESCO was to be congratulated on the manner in which it endeavoured to make known the Universal Declaration on Human Rights to intellectuals and the masses alike throughout the world. Its activities in that respect brought the Declaration to life. The whole process was inevitably a slow one, and the world must patiently wait and hope for the day when, by the efforts of the specialized agencies, all the high objectives enunciated in the United Nations Charter, on which the Declaration was based, would be achieved.

The four agencies to which the Director-General had made particular reference, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization and UNESCO, were the four pillars on which the international movement of the day rested. They represented the faith and hope of mankind in the international organization of the present era, and it was essential that every step possible should be taken to bring them into closer touch with reality. He endorsed the Director-General's view that when considering those agencies breadth of vision was necessary in order not to fall victim to the fears engendered by prevailing circumstances. He could but hope that they would continue to work together, and so form a solid foundation for the peace of the world.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) said that UNESCO had the whole-hearted support of the Government and people of his country. It had to an unprecedented extent caught the imagination of the American people, because its aims and objectives, as outlined in Article 1 of its Constitution, embodied the deepest aspirations of the freedom-loving peoples of the world. The scope of the Organization, however, and the complexity of its aims made their

attainment extremely difficult. At an earlier stage in UNESCO's history, project had followed upon project, and some remnant of that spirit still survived; for, at the General Convergence in Florence, as many as 200 new projects had been proposed. As a result of its manifold activities, too, there had been an extraordinary growth of non-governmental and semi-governmental organizations, supported and to some degree financed by UNESCO. Such a proliferation of organizations did not help the attainment of its purposes.

Seen against such a background, the most striking characteristic of the Organization's report was the great progress made in concentrating programmes. Largely because of the efforts of its Director-General, UNESCO was moving towards the establishment, not only of priorities, but of the integration of its major programmes in terms of the essential purposes of the Organization, which were the promotion of peace and security. His delegation had submitted a draft resolution (E/AC.24/L.15), which essentially spoke for itself. It was designed to assist the Director-General and those who shared his vision to make UNESCO a more effective instrument for achieving its central purposes. The second paragraph placed on record the United States delegation's appreciation of the leadership of the Director-General. The third paragraph made an appeal to members of UNESCO to seek greater concentration of future programmes; for much of the early proliferation of programmes and activities had been one, not so much to the Secretariat of UNESCO as to governments themselves, which had proposed an endless succession of projects. The fourth paragraph specified one way in which greater concentration could be achieved. It did not mean that UNESCO should not hold expert meetings and conferences; if there were fewer, however, more time would be available to governments, experts and the Secretariat to prepare properly for them. In any case, their number should depend on the programme; the more condensed the programme, the fewer the number of meetings.

The fifth paragraph in his draft resolution emphasized certain major aspects of the work of UNESCO. In that connection, he would suggest that the words "continued to" be inserted before the words "give special attention", as



such a modification expressed more accurately his delegation's meaning. The paragraph was in accordance with the Director-General's reference in his speech to a new classification of the major objects of the tasks before UNESCO, stated "in ascending order of complexity and importance". The first category included the efforts "to organize co-operation between specialists for the collation and dissemination of knowledge and research". That was a field in which UNESCO had done a great deal. Some felt that it had perhaps devoted a disproportionate amount of efforts and funds to that end. He therefore appreciated all the more the Director-General's own emphasis on the second and third categories of programmes. The second category included the promotion of the utilization of knowledge and research for the improvement of living standards and the enhancement of human dignity. Such an object implied an expansion of education, with special attention to under-developed countries. If the draft resolution were adopted, it would supersede Council resolution 251 (IX). In that resolution, the term "war-devastated countries" had been used, but that term no longer held the meaning it had had some years before, for great programmes of development had re-established educational institutions in most of the war-devastated countries. No comparable development of educational institutions had taken place in the under-developed countries, and his delegation considered that for the future the major emphasis should be on those regions. The fifth paragraph also emphasized as an issue of the highest priority "the promotion of effective methods of teaching international understanding". That corresponded to the third and most complex and important of the Director-General's categories, namely, the effort "to enlist all forms of intellectual activity for the strengthening of international understanding".

He would have liked to speak on the subject of research laboratories, and on teaching purposes and principles, but **both those subjects** would come up for discussion under separate items of the agenda, and he would refrain from touching upon them at the present moment. In both cases, however, UNESCO was clearly the international agency most concerned.

In UNESCO's report there had been several references to the need for further studies of the problem of the arid zone, and at the Fifth General

Conference a resolution had been passed relating to the International Arid Zone Research Council. He wondered whether such a Council actually existed. If it did not, the form of the resolution was misleading. The general problem of the arid zone, involving as it did huge populations, was in many ways the problem of under-developed countries, and while, as UNESCO had said, it needed special attention, it was of great importance and cut across so many issues that it was a mistake to entrust it to yet another council. Rather, therefore, than permit a small scale enterprise, the Economic and Social Council should ask the Secretary-General to make a co-ordinated effort in a field which covered many specialized agencies. The question was of such importance that together with the Indian delegation, his delegation had prepared a draft resolution on it (E/AC.24/L.16) for the Committee's consideration. That resolution requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the interested specialized agencies and other appropriate inter-governmental and non-governmental bodies, to submit to the twelfth session of the Council a report on the activities of those agencies and bodies in connexion with the economic and social problems of the arid zones, and recommendations for the co-ordination of such activities under the guidance of the Economic and Social Council. He hoped that, in accordance with the last paragraph of the draft resolution, UNESCO would in the meantime go slow in proceeding with the implementation of its resolution in support of the establishment of an International Arid Zone Research Council.

In conclusion, he hoped that with the help of governments UNESCO would become more and more effective in laying down the intellectual and moral bases upon which an enduring peace could be built.

Mr. SCHNAKE-VERGARA (Chile) said that, although his country was not a member of UNESCO, he felt entitled to make some general comments, because it was a member and wholehearted supporter of the United Nations, and because the Director-General of UNESCO was, to some extent, the embodiment of Latin American thought.

He congratulated UNESCO and the Director-General for their excellent work in concentrating their programmes. The subject of concentration had engaged the attention of the General Assembly and of successive sessions of the Council, and UNESCO was the more to be congratulated on what had been done in view of the difficulties with which it had been faced, and in particular on the very important step it had taken at Florence in fixing an order of priorities, of which the object was not to limit its activities, but to make the work more effective. The main obstacles in the way of a full programme of UNESCO were at present, and perhaps would be in the future, lack of resources and lack of experts in all fields of knowledge. Only a concentration of programmes would enable UNESCO to obtain effective results in such circumstances and thereby strengthen its standing with world opinion.

The tasks of UNESCO were immense. In great parts of the world there was a hunger, not only for material well-being, but also for things of the mind and spirit. In the recent past the destruction of great parts of the material world had been accompanied by great damage to the spiritual foundations of mankind. The impact of the war on the moral side of international life had been tremendous. The great task in front of UNESCO was the reconstruction of those spiritual foundations, and UNESCO was clearly the chief means by which such reconstruction would be achieved. Economic problems were legion, and many projects had been evolved to solve them, but it was equally important to inculcate throughout the world the basic principles of the Charter and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It was impossible to over-emphasize the importance of that basic work, and it seemed to him that the only solution was that UNESCO should be given all the financial assistance it required to carry out such re-education. In particular, the spiritual requirements of the inhabitants of under-developed countries should be borne in mind.

The greatest contribution UNESCO could make to the peace of the world would be to achieve its fundamental objectives. What was needed, what was indeed essential, was to rebuild man's spiritual foundations, in the knowledge that economic and spiritual progress could only be achieved through inculcation

of the fundamental rights laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Without such foundations, there could be no stability in life, no freedom and no true international democracy.

Mr. DELHAYE (Belgium) stated that his delegation had read with great interest UNESCO's report for the year 1949-1950, as well as the supplementary report arising out of the Fifth General Conference, both of which had been submitted to the Council by the Director-General.

The former report was clear and concise - he would even like to say in passing that he thought it almost too condensed. The reply would no doubt be that those notes had been deliberately summarized, especially with regard to certain technical points, and that various other UNESCO documents could be consulted if more precise and more detailed information were required. Nevertheless, he would like to know the views of the Director-General, and possibly the other members of the Council, on that point.

He then referred to the important question of the Organization's programme. In the introduction to his report for the year 1949-50, the Director-General had stated that "it is clearly detrimental to the Organization's efficiency that its personnel and financial resources should be spread so thinly over the tasks laid upon it, that little or no significant progress can be made with some of them". It was therefore urgently necessary to plan concentration of effort and to establish a system of priority for the tasks to be accomplished. The Fifth General Conference appeared to have taken an important step in that direction, and the supplementary report (E/1688/Add.1) contained the text of a very clear resolution which had been adopted unanimously.

For its part, his delegation was happy to express its satisfaction in that connection. The dangers into which UNESCO could fall were not purely illusory, since the Director-General himself had written that "an activity carried on at a slow tempo is likely before long to lose its sharp edges and sooner or later its significance". Happily, under the forceful direction of Mr. Torres-Bodet, to whom the Belgian delegation wished to pay handsome tribute, UNESCO had calculated the risks in good time, and its vitality, assisted by more concentrated methods of work employed more judiciously, would give better results.

Among the most recent achievements, he wished to point in particular to the World Conference on the Conservation of Natural Resources, an important statement on the racial problem, a seminar organised at the University of Brussels devoted to the revision of school textbooks and history books in particular, and UNESCO participation in the technical assistance programme. The latter question was of particular interest to the Belgian delegation, since the technical assistance programme would, to all appearances, be one of the great constructive achievements of the United Nations. All who, like the Belgian delegation, had the growing development of UNESCO at heart, would welcome the part it was called upon to play in that field, which would increase its resources. Although the Director-General had pointed out that such increase would be only temporary, it would none the less be quite appreciable.

The Fifth General Conference of UNESCO had devoted much attention to the Organization's participation in the expanded programme of technical assistance, and in a resolution had requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to submit for its sixth session a report on that participation. It would also be advisable to retain the invitation to "Member States and their National Commissions to assist the Secretariat by providing information on available technical personnel and in particular in obtaining the services of persons specially qualified to carry out the tasks required within the approved Technical Assistance project."

On the initiative of the Belgian delegation, the Fifth General Conference had adopted a resolution authorising the Director-General to consider the employment of refugee intellectuals. In practice, that meant including some of those intellectuals on the lists of experts to be employed under the technical assistance programme. In that connection, he emphasised that his delegation wished to see something done to assist that class of emigrant.

It would also like to know whether the UNESCO Secretariat was yet in a position to supply preliminary information regarding the measures taken in pursuance of the above-mentioned resolutions. He took that opportunity of assuring UNESCO that it could rely on his Government to co-operate by supplying the necessary documentation and by participating in the implementation of the measures decided upon.

Before leaving the question of technical assistance, he wished to point out that his delegation shared the views expressed in the penultimate paragraph of the draft resolution submitted by the United States delegation (E/AC.24/L.15).

In his report to the Fifth General Conference, the Director-General had summarised the work accomplished and the progress made with a view to the conclusion of international agreements on the import of educational, scientific and cultural material. As stated in document E/1688/Add.1, the Fifth General Conference had approved a draft agreement for submission to governments. The Belgian authorities would examine that draft with the greatest care, and they hoped that other Member States would give the same attention to a proposal whose adoption would go a long way towards removing existing obstacles to the free dissemination of ideas.

Similarly, Belgium appreciated and encouraged the efforts made by UNESCO to protect authors' rights, and the Belgian delegation warmly supported the remarks of the Mexican representative on that subject.

He wished to congratulate the Director-General on the progress made in the presentation of the UNESCO programme and budget. The documents were clearer and fewer in number. Nevertheless, the Belgian delegation considered that the administrative costs were still very high; it sincerely hoped that efforts would be made to reduce the proportion of the whole budget represented by those costs, so that funds for field work could be increased.

Without wishing to revert to everything that had been said by the Belgian representative during the discussion on item 33 of the agenda (Teaching of the purposes and principles, the structure and activities of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies) he must repeat that in the present circumstances it was more than ever necessary to reach as many people as possible, particularly young people; for, as had been rightly pointed out, international co-operation began with youth. The Belgian delegation was certainly not unaware of the difficulty of such an undertaking. Disillusionment and scepticism were not the least of the obstacles, but his delegation was convinced that all must persevere in a task which, it was to be hoped, might bear fruit before further trials overtook the world.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.