

## Section 5.—Canada and UNESCO\*

The origin of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its activities up to the First Session of the General Conference (held in Paris in November, 1946) were described at pp. 313-315 of the Canada Year Book 1947.

The Second Session of the General Conference was held at Mexico City, Nov. 6 to Dec. 4, 1947. Delegations from 37 countries participated; there were official observers from 12 countries and about two dozen international organizations. Altogether 125 delegates, 174 experts or advisers, and 56 observers were present, including a Canadian delegation of 11 persons.†

The program for 1948, as approved by the Mexico Conference, called for a budget of \$7,682,637, of which Canada is expected to contribute 3.7 p.c., or approximately \$286,500, apart from a contribution of like proportion to a Revolving Fund of \$1,000,000.

**Reconstruction.**—In addressing the Conference the Chairman of the Canadian Delegation said: "The needs of reconstruction in countries devastated by war must be given the strongest possible emphasis, for, until all the cultural, intellectual, and scientific resources of the devastated countries are brought into play, the activities of UNESCO in other fields must inevitably lag". There was general agreement with this point of view. The Reconstruction Division of the Secretariat was given a budgetary appropriation of \$614,141 including \$178,000 for emergency grants-in-aid, but intended primarily to enable it to collect and disseminate information on needs, and to stimulate action on the part of national and international bodies to meet those needs.

At the time of the Conference a national campaign by voluntary organizations in the United States had succeeded in raising more than \$100,000,000 for reconstruction through UNESCO. A corresponding Canadian organization, the Canadian Council for Reconstruction through UNESCO, was being organized. Its campaign for funds, jointly with the United Nations Appeal for Children, was launched in February, 1948, with a combined objective of \$10,000,000.

To assist the Reconstruction Division, UNESCO provides office facilities at Paris for a Temporary International Council for Educational Reconstruction (TICER), on which there are representatives of 21 international voluntary organizations. UNESCO helps the individual organizations in the operation of youth camps, and in other ways.

**Education.**—In carrying out the program in education for 1948 the Director General was instructed by the Mexico Conference to give first and equal priority to the following seven projects: (1) fundamental education; (2) adult education; (3) work with universities; (4) educational seminars; (5) education for international understanding (in primary and secondary schools of Member States, including essay competitions for young people); (6) improvement of text books and teaching materials; and (7) consultative educational missions to such Member States as request them.

The results of the seminar for teachers, held near Paris in the summer of 1946, were particularly well received by the Second General Conference. It was proposed to hold three of world-wide scope in 1947 (at Prague, London and New

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† A report of the Canadian Delegation to the Second Session of the General Conference of UNESCO (53 pp. mimeographed) is available from the Department of External Affairs, Ottawa.