

CHAPTER XIV

SOCIAL WELFARE QUESTIONS

During 1954, social welfare activities were directed towards assisting the Economic and Social Council in formulating social policy, assisting governments in organizing national programmes of social development, promoting the training of professional and auxiliary welfare personnel, improving the co-ordination of economic and social development programmes, and field activities. (For international definition and measurement of standards of living, see under CHAPTER VII, STATISTICAL QUESTIONS; for social aspects of migration, see under CHAPTER XVI, POPULATION AND MIGRATION QUESTIONS.)

During the year the Secretariat prepared, for publication early in 1955, an "International Survey of Programmes of Social Development". This work was done, as were previous reports on social conditions, in collaboration with the specialized agencies concerned. The survey, which it is intended to issue every four years, alternating with the World Social Report, will review and analyse recent trends and outstanding examples of social action taken by governments for the cure or prevention of social ills.

The examples will be chosen not so much from the point of view of activities and achievements, but rather in order to call attention to programmes that might serve as useful models for other countries, particularly those that are less developed.

CO-ORDINATION OF SOCIAL WELFARE ACTIVITIES

In reviewing the progress made in inter-secretariat co-ordination, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) observed that the results achieved were mainly related to the planning and execution of projects previously approved by the governing organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The Council adopted a resolution noting the Committee's report and urging continued efforts for more effective co-ordination (see under CHAPTER XVIII, PROGRAMME PLANNING

AND QUESTIONS OF CO-ORDINATION AND RELATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES).

Shortly after the adoption of this resolution, an ad hoc inter-agency meeting on international social programmes was held in Geneva in July 1954 which, in addition to reviewing the progress reports of the ad hoc working groups and meetings, was specifically called to discuss "practical action and long-range plans in the social field, including acquainting each other with their forward thinking on their long-term plans . . . and to facilitate adjustments in plans before those plans become crystallized".

The ACC endorsed those views and, encouraged by the progress made in achieving concerted action in such fields as community development, land reform and fundamental education, examined the possibilities of collaboration in other fields in which the United Nations and the specialized agencies were seeking common objectives and where individual action might be strengthened by a greater degree of common planning and joint action.

DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO GOVERNMENTS

During 1954 the Division of Social Welfare (now the Bureau of Social Affairs) and the Technical Assistance Administration (TAA) worked together in a number of field activities. In relation to seminars and technical conferences, study groups and special technical assignments to governments, the Bureau made available its personnel in greater measure than in previous years.

Consultants were provided to advise governments on the planning of integrated programmes of social welfare (Burma), on the development of national housing policies and programmes (Costa Rica, Ecuador, the Gold Coast) and on nation-wide programmes of community organization and development (Haiti, Iraq, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and Yugoslavia).

Importance was also attached to surveying and promoting the training of social welfare personnel both in the professional and auxiliary