Economic Questions

them. It was thus difficult to appraise the work of ECE from the report or to assess the budgetary implications involved.

At the termination of the general discussion, resolution 232 (IX) was unanimously adopted, in which the Council took note of the regular annual report submitted by the Commission and of the views expressed during the discussions at the fourth session of the Commission. It also approved the establishment of the Committee on the Development of Trade and of the Committee on Agricultural Problems within the framework of ECE. The suggestion of the Commission concerning the submission of interim reports to the Council was also considered, and it was decided that for the present the Council did not require the Economic Commission for Europe to submit interim reports to each session in accordance with point 6 of the terms of reference. It was left to the discretion of the Commission to submit such reports additional to the annual report as it considered desirable.

M. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST (ECAFE)

During the period under review, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) held two sessions: its fourth at Lapstone, Australia, from 29 November to 11 December 1948, and its fifth at Singapore, from 20 to 29 October 1949.

1. Membership

At its seventh session, the Economic and Social Council had decided (144(VII)B) that the Commission had authority to deal with applications for membership from areas within its geographical scope. It had also (144(VII)A) amended the Commission's terms of reference to include Nepal within its geographical scope. The Commission, at its fourth session, unanimously agreed that Nepal be admitted as an associate member.

With respect to the admission of Indonesia and/or the Republic of Indonesia, the Commission decided, after prolonged discussion, to admit the Republic of Indonesia and the rest of Indonesia as associate members. The representative of the USSR objected to the admission of Indonesia ("Netherlands Indies"). The representative of the Netherlands maintained that the motion of his delegation to admit the whole of Indonesia should be voted upon, since there was no application for associate membership from the "rest of Indonesia". After the Commission's decision, the Netherlands delegation withdrew from the session.

The question of the admission of Viet-Nam was considered by the Commission at its fourth session, but the Chairman ruled that no valid application for associate membership from the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam had been received.

At its fifth session, the Commission had before it: a request for admission from the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, and an application presented by France for the admission of the State of Viet-Nam. Both applications were considered simultaneously.

The representatives of France, Australia, Cambodia and the United Kingdom supported the candidature of the Government of the State of Viet-Nam as being the duly-constituted and legal Government of the territory. The representatives of France and the United Kingdom pointed out that ECAFE's terms of reference stated that applications could only be considered when they were made, on behalf of a territory, by the Government responsible for its international relations, which, they felt, applied in the case of the application of the State of Viet-Nam. An application could also be considered when made by a territory not a United Nations Member, but responsible for its own international relations. These conditions were not met in the case of the "so-called" Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, and they accordingly requested the Commission to declare the application not admissible.

The representatives of the USSR and the Republic of Indonesia supported the application of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam as the only legal Government of the territory. The USSR representative observed that the United Kingdom and Australian representatives, among others, had stressed the question of responsibility for international relations. He did not feel it correct that the application of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam could not be accepted because it "had not at present its own international relations". Although some representatives had expressed the view that the general criterion for deciding the independence of a country was that of general recognition, he believed that other considerations should be taken into account, such as the territory and population.