

categories. Assistance was given in establishing and developing regional training centres; experts, scholarships and fellowships were provided; seminars and technical groups were organized, and training materials and studies on training problems were supplied, although on a limited scale.

In addition, efforts were made to strengthen the work of the non-governmental organizations which were assisting governments in the training of administrators, technicians and auxiliaries for different phases of the planning and execution of social programmes.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 496(XVI), community development received increased emphasis during 1954.

The Council's resolution had authorized the Secretary-General to convene one or more small groups of senior policy-making representatives of governments having similar social and economic problems to plan concrete programmes for expansion of community development projects.

On the invitation of the Government of the Philippines, and in close co-operation with the specialized agencies concerned, the first of those meetings was held in Manila in November-December 1954. The meeting was attended by 25 delegates representing the Governments of India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines and South Korea. In addition to representatives from the United Nations, officials from UNICEF, UNKRA, ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO were present. The report of this meeting was to be submitted for information to the 10th session of the Social Commission in 1955.

The ACC's inter-agency meeting on International Social Programmes, which met in 1954, considered that the problems covered by the working groups on Community Organization and Development, Training of Auxiliary and Community Workers, and Fundamental Education were so closely related that the time had come to combine those three groups. The first meeting of the new amalgamated working group on Community Development was scheduled for the summer of 1955.

HOUSING AND TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

Under the directives received from the Economic and Social Council (resolution 496 (XVI)) and the Social Commission, the programme of housing and town and country planning was designed to assist governments to set up their own national policies and programmes; to help them to find practical methods for financing such programmes; to develop the building and building materials industries; to promote regional planning in schemes for rural and urban improvement; and to facilitate technical research and the training of technicians and administrators.

Throughout the year, the number of requests received from governments for direct assistance increased. Nineteen experts were working in 13 countries (Burma, Ceylon, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Israel, Lebanon, Mexico, Pakistan, Paraguay and Turkey) and 39 fellowships and scholarships were awarded.

Perhaps the most important technical assistance project in connexion with housing was the United Nations Regional Seminar on Housing and Community Improvement, held in January-February 1954, in New Delhi (see also ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST under CHAPTER IX). Government officials and housing and planning experts attended from Burma, Ceylon, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Laos, Pakistan, Puerto Rico, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The United Nations provided 14 experts from 10 countries who acted as discussion leaders and lecturers. The three main topics covered at the Seminar were building techniques, housing and community improvement programmes, and physical planning and education of planners. The Seminar adopted a series of recommendations concerning policies and programmes and their implementation.

The International Exhibition on Low-Cost Housing, which was held at the same time, was organized by the Government of India with the participation of other governments of the region as well as of the building industry.

A Seminar on Housing Through Non-Profit Associations, which was organized by the United Nations and the Danish Government,