

participated in the decision to settle post-war international policies in a democratic way." It was felt, too, that in being asked to make recommendations to the United Nations for present and post-war social policy the Conference was, in effect, made a definite part of the machinery of the peace settlement.

Following the initial general debate, the Conference decided that items I and II should be considered in greater detail by one joint Committee consisting of thirty-six Government, eighteen employer, and eighteen workers' representatives under the chairmanship of Miss Francis Perkins, United States Secretary of Labour. After a general discussion of its terms of reference the full Committee appointed four sub-committees as follows :—

- (1) Sub-committee on Constitutional Questions.
- (2) Sub-committee on Industrial Committees.
- (3) Sub-committee on Economic Questions.
- (4) Sub-committee on Axis Territories.

The major topic with which the Committee had to concern itself—Social Provisions of the Peace Settlement—was considered by the Committee as a whole.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

Although detailed proposals relating to the constitutional practices of the International Labour Organization had been submitted in draft form by the Office, the general feeling of the Conference was that the Governments and other parties concerned had not had sufficient time or opportunity to give such proposals the consideration they required before final decisions could properly be taken.

A Resolution was accordingly submitted by the Canadian and United States Government members, the chief effect of which was to refer back to the Governing Body the responsibility of considering more fully, having regard to views expressed at the Conference and to suggestions which might be communicated subsequently to the Office by Governments, the whole problem of the future constitutional development of the Organization, with reference particularly to the relationship of the I.L.O. to other international bodies; the clarification and codification of its constitutional practices; the status, immunities, and other facilities to be accorded to the Organization; and finance. A sub-committee, however, did make certain specific recommendations on several of the questions before it which were incorporated in the terms of a resolution accepted by the Committee and by the full Conference.

The main points in this resolution were a recommendation to the effect that greater attention should be paid in future to the further regionalization of the Office; that, pending the development of an overall pattern of international institutions, effective steps should be taken to ensure close collaboration and full exchange of information between the I.L.O. and any other public organization which now exists or may be established in the future; and finally, that the Governing Body should appoint representatives with power to negotiate with international authorities on behalf of the Organization concerning any constitutional questions that at any time require immediate action.

It was made clear during the discussions of the sub-committee that the questions referred back to the Governing Body would include the report submitted by the Office on item I of the Agenda with the draft resolutions contained in that report; the resolutions submitted to the twenty-sixth (Philadelphia) Session of the Conference; and the views expressed in the course of the Conference, together with any suggestions which might be made subsequently by Governments or others.

The sub-committee took note of a request that Governments be given adequate opportunity to consider the proposals which the Committee had under examination and to communicate their observations thereon to the Governing Body before any final decisions are taken.

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

This sub-committee had before it important proposals made by the British Government for strengthening the structure of the I.L.O. by the establishment of industrial committees for the main world industries. It was felt that the experience of the Organization hitherto had revealed the need for permanent machinery for the consideration of problems peculiar to particular industries. This need, it was stated, had been partially met during the inter-war period by the holding from time to time of special conferences for such industries as textiles, coal-mining, chemicals, rail transport, &c. Such arrangements, however, were no longer considered adequate in face of the greater need for and possibilities of industrial (as well as regional) approaches to economic and social problems. Opinions exchanged at Philadelphia consequently reflected the unanimous desire of members that action should be taken as rapidly as possible with a view to defining a policy for the constitution of industrial committees and for translating that policy into action.

No decision was reached as to whether the constitution of these committees should be bi-partite or tri-partite, since it was felt that this question would need further examination by the Governing Body. Nor was any attempt made to reach conclusions concerning the possible scope of the activities of such committees. Note was taken, however, of the opinion that each committee so constituted should confine its attention to problems peculiar to its own particular industry and that, in so far as economic issues came up for consideration, the committees should concern themselves primarily with the social aspects of these issues. As a method of procedure, it was suggested that the Governing Body might appoint a sub-committee to work out plans for the constitution of industrial committees on the understanding that such a committee might include representatives of the organizations of employers and workers concerned.

SOCIAL POLICY IN OCCUPIED AXIS TERRITORIES

This sub-committee had under consideration two draft Resolutions submitted by the Office. The first of these was a Resolution concerning general measures of social policy which might be put into effect in Axis territories during their occupation by Forces of the United Nations. Following a general discussion, it was agreed that the proposals submitted by the Office, together with the minutes of the sub-committee's discussion, should be referred back to the Governing Body, to whom should be left discretion as to what further initiative, if any, should be taken in this connection.