

5. RESOLUTION CONCERNING SEAFARERS

The Conference attaches the highest importance to securing proper conditions of life and work for Asian seafarers, and therefore requests the Governing Body to direct the International Labour Office to complete as rapidly as possible the survey which is being made of the conditions of Asian seafarers, and to convene at an early date in an Asian country, in accordance with the recognized procedure, a maritime meeting to consider these conditions.

6. RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ECONOMIC POLICIES NECESSARY FOR THE ATTAINMENT IN ASIA OF THE SOCIAL OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Whereas the Declaration of Philadelphia reaffirms that poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere; and

Whereas poverty is the basic factor retarding social progress in Asia, and such progress cannot be achieved without the adoption of economic policies designed to secure greater productivity and a fairer distribution of wealth; and

Whereas the Declaration of Philadelphia also affirms that all human beings, irrespective of race, creed, or sex, have the right to pursue both their material well-being and their spiritual development in conditions of freedom and dignity, of economic security and equal opportunity, and that the attainment of the conditions in which this shall be possible must constitute the central aim of national and international policy; and enunciates the responsibility of the International Labour Organization to examine and consider international economic and financial policies and measures in the light of this fundamental objective; and

Whereas it is therefore desirable that the representatives of Governments, employers, and workers assembled at the Preparatory Asian Regional Conference of the International Labour Organization should, in addition to making specific proposals concerning labour standards, the mobility and training of labour, industrial relations, social security and similar questions, and framing a programme of action for the progressive application in Asia of the provisions of the International Labour Code, also formulate for consideration by the appropriate national and international authorities their views in regard to the economic policies necessary for the attainment in the Asian countries of the social objectives of the Organization;

The Conference request the Governing Body to bring the following provisional views to the attention of the Governments represented at the Conference, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the International Trade Organization when established, and such other international bodies as may have primary responsibility for international action in respect of the various measures suggested; and to arrange for such further studies of the problems of economic development as may be calculated to assist the Asian countries in implementing the objectives of the International Labour Organization to be made by the International Labour Office or other appropriate international bodies, with a view to the matter being further considered at the next Regional Conference.

I. Provision of Industrial Employment for Excess Agricultural Population

1. In most Asian countries there exists a great excess of agricultural population in relation to the available supply of cultivable land.

2. This agricultural over-population, manifesting itself in the smallness of the average size of farm and in the insufficiency of income derived therefrom to provide an average rural family with a minimum subsistence level of living, is a key factor in the poverty of Asia.