

4. Increase to twenty-four of the number of member States represented in the Economic and Social Council.

In connection with Chapter I of the Council's report the principal matters discussed were the number of sessions of regional economic commissions to be held in 1949 and the distribution of membership in subsidiary organs of the Council.

Sessions of Regional Economic Commissions

The Committee had before it a draft resolution proposed by the representative of *India* recommending to the Economic and Social Council that "the Regional Economic Commissions for Asia and the Far East and for Latin America be authorized to hold two sessions in 1949."

Several members of the Committee, including *New Zealand*, pointed out that the Economic and Social Council could, at its ninth session, approve a further session of the regional commissions should this prove necessary. The supporters of the Indian proposal, however, contended that in July it would be too late to decide to hold further commission sessions in 1949.

The *Belgian* delegate proposed that all regional commissions should be authorized to hold two sessions in 1949, although it was appreciated that the organization of the Economic Commission for Europe was in a more advanced stage and therefore less likely to require the close direction of the full commission. Representatives of *Middle East* States supported the Belgian proposal, drawing attention to the fact that the Economic Commission for the Middle East was as yet not established, and would require to hold two sessions in 1949 in order to reach the same stage of development as other regional commissions.

The *United Kingdom* delegate proposed that the second session of each commission should be a "working" session, held at the headquarters of the commission, and concerned solely with reviewing projects already in operation.

After rejecting a *Greek* proposal to refer the matter back to the Economic and Social Council, a *Turko-Chinese* proposal authorizing two meetings in 1949 for each commission, and a *United Kingdom* proposal to hold one full and one working session in 1949, the Committee by a vote of 37 (N.Z.) to 6 with 6 abstentions, adopted an amended form of the *Indian* draft which recommended that the Council authorize the regional economic commissions to hold two sessions in 1949 if necessary. In the General Assembly the resolution was adopted without vote.