

ery valuable work with the committee of experts of the Council of Europe with a view to preparing the agreements, and the future European labour conference is to be convened jointly by the I.L.O. and the Secretariat of the Council of Europe.

The European social security standards are naturally expected to find their place within the framework of the international labour Convention which the present session of the Conference will be discussing in the next few days. Thus, the European social security effort does not exclude international action on a wider scale, but as regard to the need for proceeding by stages, having regard also to certain special conditions.

These are the motives that have led us to take a new step forward in connection with the Schuman Plan. The co-ordination provided for in the Schuman Plan with regard to economic matters has not left out of account the social consequences of the economic progress thus achieved. This is one of the origins of the occupational readaptation fund for which French law provides. Accepted principles with regard to the position of foreign labour have not been neglected, and have in fact been inserted in the agreement in a more advanced form.

These are the remarks I wished to make regarding recent French social policy. I have shown that at the national level, in every field, there has been increased and co-ordinated action by the occupational organisations and the Government to strengthen and increase the progress which has been made possible by the restoration of our economic potential.

France does not forget, however, that the efforts for social justice made in one country must be reflected in international action if they are not to be in vain. It therefore expresses once more its full agreement with the principles of the Organisation. France intends to pursue, through the I.L.O., its policy of co-operation in the social field.

I wish to stress, in this connection, the importance of the work of the I.L.O. in building up the International Labour Code. There would be no International Labour Code if the I.L.O. did not exist. It is one of the essential characteristics of the Organisation that it has in the extensive field of labour law a series of international Conventions and a procedure of implementation which does not exist on such a scale in any other international organisation. We must maintain this precious means to social progress and adapt it to cover the new, more extensive

France is about to make its 58th ratification of an international labour Convention. I realise the difficulties which often prevent ratification of Conventions, and which are in many cases due more to difficulties of fitting them into the national practice than to any profound difference of principle. Even when not ratified, the Conventions are standards which national legislation should approach. In securing the necessary combination of this legislative work and of the kind of concrete achievements that the I.L.O. now has to its credit you will be faithful to the proper role of the I.L.O.

It is with this end in view that my country desires to collaborate in the common task and that it sees, in the gradual establishment of regional agreements, an intermediate stage between dangerous and powerless isolation and a really universal organisation which will assure us the liberation of the workers, which is a guarantee of prosperity and peace.

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDING ORDERS<sup>1</sup>

*Interpretation:* The PRESIDENT — Our today's agenda requires us now to consider the report of the Committee on Standing Orders.

*Interpretation:* Mr. AGO (*Government adviser, Italy; Reporter of the Committee on Standing Orders*) — In view of the shortage of time at our disposal, I will simply say a word with regard to point 2 of the report of the Committee on Standing Orders, which proposes amendments to the Standing Orders required to give effect to the Governing Body's recommendations for associating Members of the International Labour Organisation more closely with its work.

The amendments proposed for your consideration were the subject of a long discussion, particularly among the Government members of the Committee. It may be that these amendments did not completely satisfy all members, but nevertheless it was unanimously recognised that there was no other possible solution. The Standing Orders must not be regarded as our master; they are an instrument which must always be at our service. If experience shows that this system is not good we should always be ready and able to revise it.

I have nothing to add on any of the other points. The questions here were fortunately easy to settle and there was

*Interpretation* : The PRESIDENT — I am sure that I shall be expressing the general feeling in conveying our gratitude to the Reporter for his eloquence and brevity. Does anyone wish to speak on the report ?

*Interpretation* : Mr. TROCLET (*Government delegate, Belgium*) — I do not propose to start a long discussion on a very difficult and complicated subject. I wish simply to say that, as Mr. Ago stated quite clearly, it would seem in the present circumstances and judging by the discussions, difficult to envisage any other solution for the moment. If, however, I say this, implying that the Belgian Government will vote for the proposal which Mr. Ago has submitted to the Conference, I must also say that the Belgian Government delegation considers that it must make reservations for the future.

During the discussion—I do not wish to go into it in detail here—the Belgian Government delegation made to the Governing Body a more radical proposal, namely, to amend the Constitution, so

that it might be possible for the Governing Body to be organised in such a way as to give greater satisfaction and more safeguards. The Belgian Government thought, in particular, that the proposal which it had made, and which implies amendment of the Constitution, might have the effect of safeguarding the representation of the various regions more adequately and more surely.

While making reservations in regard to this proposal, which the Belgian Government will maintain in suspense until it is proved whether the present proposal is satisfactory or not, I wish to state that we shall vote for the proposal put before you by the Committee on Standing Orders.

*Interpretation* : The PRESIDENT — I understand that Mr. Troclet does not oppose the adoption of the report. If there are no other objections or observations, I think we may take the report as adopted.

*(The report is adopted.)*

*(The Conference adjourned at 12.45 p.m.)*

Following Article 39 (Part II, Section E), insert the following new Article 39bis :

*Consultation of the United Nations  
or Other Specialised Agencies*

Where items are placed on the agenda of the Conference with a view to the adoption of a Convention or a Recommendation, the International Labour Office shall, at the same time as it is requesting Governments for their comments on the proposed Convention or Recommendation, consult the United Nations and other specialised agencies in respect of any provision of the proposed Convention or Recommendation which affects the activities of such organisation or organisations, and the comments of such organisation or organisations shall be brought before the Conference, together with the comments received from Governments.

Following Article 17bis (above), insert the following new Article 17ter :

*Time Limit for the Submission of Proposals  
for New Activities*

1. Except as provided in paragraph 2 of the present Article, no proposals for new activities to be undertaken by the International Labour Organisation shall be placed before a session of the Conference unless such proposal has been deposited with the Director-General of the International Labour Office at least six weeks before the opening of the Conference.

2. The requirements of paragraph 1 do not apply to—

- (a) any proposal that a matter should be referred to the Governing Body or the Joint Maritime Commission for examination with a view to deciding whether action by the International Labour Organisation in regard to the matter is desirable, or
- (b) matters of urgency in regard to which paragraph 2 of Article 17 applies.

The Governing Body has also approved the following amendments to the Rules concerning the Powers, Functions and Procedure of Regional Conferences convened by the International Labour Organisation, and has recommended them to the Conference for confirmation, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 38 of the Constitution of the Organisation :

Following Article 12, insert the following new Article 12bis :

*Prior Consultation in respect of Proposals  
for New Activities relating to Matters of Direct  
Concern to the United Nations  
or Other Specialised Agencies*

1. Where a proposal submitted to a regional conference involves new activities to be undertaken by the International Labour Organisation relating to matters which are of direct concern to the United Nations or one or more specialised agencies other than the International Labour Organisation, the Director-General or his representative shall enter into consultation with the organisations concerned and report to the Conference on the means of achieving co-ordinated use of the resources of the respective organisations. Where a proposal put forward in the course of a meeting for new activities to be undertaken by the International Labour Organisation relates to matters which are of direct concern to the United Nations or one or more specialised agencies other than the International Labour Organisation, the Director-General or his representative shall, after such consultation with

the representatives of the other organisation or organisations concerned attending the meeting as may be possible, draw the attention of the meeting to these implications of the proposal.

2. Before deciding on proposals referred to in paragraph 1 of the present Article the Conference shall satisfy itself that adequate consultations have taken place with the organisations concerned.

The Committee unanimously recommends the Conference to confirm this amendment to the Rules of Procedure.

The Governing Body recommended that the amendments proposed above involving consultation with other organisations should come into force as from the date of the adoption of corresponding amendments to their Rules of Procedure by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations. There was some discussion of this recommendation in the Committee, in the course of which the United States Government member put forward the point of view that these proposed amendments should come into force for the I.L.O. immediately upon their adoption by the Conference. Other members of the Committee, on the other hand, considered that they should come into force formally only after reciprocal action had been taken by the United Nations bodies concerned. In these circumstances the United States Government member did not wish to press his suggestion and the Committee decided to recommend the Conference to accept the Governing Body's recommendation on this point. It was understood that the Office would in the interim continue the close co-operation with the United Nations and other international organisations which had in fact been established concerning the matters dealt with in the proposed new Standing Orders.

4. DESIRABILITY OF INCLUDING IN  
FUTURE CONVENTIONS A NEW FINAL  
ARTICLE CONCERNING PERIODICAL  
REPORTS ON THE WORKING OF CONVEN-  
TIONS IN FORCE

The Governing Body at its 114th Session (Geneva, March 1951) considered questions concerning the various categories of reports on Conventions and Recommendations, including periodical reports on Conventions in force. It will be recalled, that unlike annual reports on ratified Conventions and reports on unratified Conventions and on Recommendations, these periodical reports are not drawn up by the Governments in pursuance of a provision of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation but are prepared in conformity with an article included in each of the Conventions adopted by the Conference and providing that the Governing Body shall submit to the Conference at five- or ten-yearly intervals reports on the working of Conventions and shall consider the

desirability of placing on the agenda of the Conference the question of the revision in whole or in part of the Convention. In actual practice, very few revisions have arisen in connection with the periodical reports. It would accordingly seem desirable to replace the existing provision, in future Conventions, by a new final article respecting periodical reports on the working of Conventions in force which would allow the Governing Body to decide as to the appropriate moment for the re-examination of a Convention without having to take the matter up automatically at fixed intervals. The Committee therefore unanimously decided to recommend that the final article

concerning periodical reports on the working of Conventions should be modified to read as follows :

At such times as it may consider necessary, the Governing Body of the International Labour Office shall present to the General Conference a report on the working of the Convention and shall examine the desirability of placing on the agenda of the Conference the question of its revision in whole or in part.

Geneva, 19 June 1951.

*(Signed)* H. ALTMAN,  
*Chairman.*  
ROBERTO AGO,  
*Reporter.*