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ACC (Administrative Committee on Co-ordination)

- 28 Sept.

- 2 Oct.

- a.) AGG, 31-st session, Draft Provisional Agenda
- b.) Notes on the Forthcoming ACC Meeting - 10-12 Oct.

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ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION
Preparatory Committee
Thirty-first session
New York, 2 October 1956

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda (COORD-PREP/R.355/Rev.1).
2. Questions arising out of the twenty-second session of the Economic and Social Council (COORD-PREP/R.356).
3. Consultations on economic and social programmes:
 - (a) Report of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on International Social Programmes (CO-ORDINATION/R.229 and Corr.1) and paper in connexion with paragraphs 20-24 (CO-ORDINATION/R.237 and COORD-PREP/R.358).
 - (b) Fourth Report of the Technical Working Group on Long-Range Activities for Children (CO-ORDINATION/R.228).
 - (c) Fourth Report of the Working Group on Community Development (CO-ORDINATION/R.235).
 - (d) Reports on consultations in various economic fields (COORD-PREP/R.358).
4. Consultations on handling of communications addressed to UNESCO alleging violations of human rights (CO-ORDINATION/R.234 and 236).
5. Relations with non-United Nations regional organizations.
6. Public information
 - (a) Question of better co-ordination in the field of public information
 - (b) Brussels Universal and International Exhibition of 1958.
7. Draft report of the ACC to the Council (COORD-PREP/R.357).
8. Draft provisional ACC agenda (CO-ORDINATION/R.233/Rev.1).
9. Date and place of next session.
10. Other business.

2 October 1956

Notes on the Forthcoming ACC Meeting

10 - 12 October 1956

The executive heads (or in the case of the Fund and the FAO, the acting heads) of all ten specialized agencies are likely to attend. It is likely that the meeting will result in the issuance of a rather substantial report. There follow some notes on items of the draft provisional agenda, which is attached hereto.

- Item 2. This item, always taken in executive session, is a catch-all, providing for consultations on ideas and plans as well as difficulties. Under it, the members will no doubt wish to discuss among other things the Secretary-General's McGill proposals.
- Item 3. Some of the ECOSOC's plans for next year, in particular the decision to hold the Co-ordination Committee a week before the summer session opens, will be of interest to the Committee. The ACC may also wish to comment with appreciation on the procedures adopted by the Council this summer for handling matters relating to co-ordination and the work of the specialized agencies.
- Item 4. The ECOSOC specifically asked the ACC to report fully on its activities, and that of its sub-committee, in respect of atomic energy. A fairly detailed statement of action over the past year, as well as an outline of the programmes of all the organizations concerned relating to atomic energy, has been prepared for possible incorporation in the ACC's report.
- Item 5. This is the broadest item on the agenda and the report will have to reflect the recent intensive -- and in part rather successful -- efforts to clarify concepts and objectives, to distribute work rationally, to improve methods of co-ordination in respect of a wide range of programmes and projects.

A rather far-reaching issue is being raised under item 5(a). The fact that the UN is becoming increasingly concerned with broad problems calling for participation by specialized agencies -- for example, industrialization, community development, urbanization -- has raised a series of problems for the agencies: how the part to be played by them is to be related to their own programmes as established by their own executive boards; how this work is to be financed; what role the executive boards themselves are to play in the determination of broad UN policy. The ILO, last summer, went so far as to maintain that "the policy-making bodies of the specialized agencies should have an opportunity of deciding on the merits of the comprehensive programmes [initiated by the ECOSOC] as well as on the budgetary and administrative possibilities for their implementation as far as the agencies are concerned, before a final decision is taken by the policy-making bodies of the UN".

Item 5(c) covers, among other things, a comprehensive agreement among officials of the UN, FAO, ILO, UNESCO and WHO on "many problems which have emerged in the rapid evolution in community development, fundamental education and related rural development programmes of the UN and the specialized agencies and which have defied solution for several years".

Item 5(d) covers consultations on water resources; a draft division of tasks in respect of co-operatives and small-scale industries; preliminary UN-FAO-GATT discussions about procedures for handling commodity problems; and miscellaneous arrangements concerning, e.g., work on industrialization and land reform.

Item 6. UNESCO's executive board has asked the Director-General to work out with the Secretary-General and the heads of other agencies suggested procedures for dealing with the communications UNESCO received alleging violations of (a) educational and cultural rights, (b) other rights, particularly political and civil. The matter has been referred by the Preparatory Committee to an informal working group of UNESCO, ILO and UN officials.

Item 7. The following questions among others arise here: (a) invitation issued by the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe to the executive heads of the European-based specialized agencies, as well as to the executive secretary of the ECE, the Director of the European Office of the UN and the High Commissioner for Refugees, to participate in the committee to help co-ordinate economic and social activities in Europe; (b) question of inviting again to an informal meeting with the ACC the executive heads of certain regional organizations with which the UN and the specialized agencies have especially close working relationships; (c) relationships with OAS.

Item 10. A brief stocktaking of arrangements for this exhibition may now be in order, before the plans for the UN-agencies exhibit are finalized.

Item 12. In addition to the points mentioned under (a) and (b), there is the question of reconstituting the Board, the term of its members expiring this year.

Item 8 which was intended to cover questions relating to privileges and immunities, as well as questions of finance, and item 9 are likely to be postponed, and an item will be added providing for the customary review of the development of the expanded programme of technical assistance.