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CHAPTER XVIII

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The advisory work of the I.L.O. has been developed on a considerable scale during the past year. The present chapter outlines that part of the work concerned with advisory missions, the provision of information to Governments and organisations on request, the institution of an I.L.O. fellowships programme and the place of the I.L.O. in the new expanded co-operative programme of technical assistance of the United Nations and the specialised agencies for the economic development of underdeveloped areas. Technical details regarding some of the missions mentioned are discussed in greater detail in the chapters dealing with the various subjects with which the missions were concerned. The Manpower Programme in particular, which forms a major part of the I.L.O. technical assistance programme, is dealt with in Chapter I. A mission to Venezuela to study social problems in that country, including the development and functioning of trade unions, is described in Chapter IV; and the enquiry into charges made against the Panamanian merchant marine is referred to in Chapter IX.

ADVISORY MISSIONS

In September 1948 the Turkish Government requested the I.L.O. to send a mission to Turkey to study the measures taken in the various branches of social policy and to make recommendations modifying, if need be, the existing labour legislation and its application. A team of five I.L.O. officials accordingly visited Turkey during April and May 1949 and toured the more important industrial centres in the country. Their report was sent to the Turkish Government on 31 August 1949; in addition to a chapter of general observations in which the Turkish labour situation is analysed as a whole against the background of international progress and experience, it contains sections on social security in its various aspects, protection of workers against industrial accidents and occupational diseases,
administrative and enforcement problems, wages, hours of work and rest periods, holidays, problems arising out of the employment of juvenile workers, problems concerning the scope of general labour legislation, freedom of association, collective bargaining and the settlement of collective disputes, employment service organisation and vocational training. This report will be published.

At the request of the Economic Commission for Latin America, an I.L.O. mission was sent to Latin America to survey the facilities for vocational and technical training and to make recommendations for their improvement. The mission visited Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay. The report of the mission has been completed and will be published shortly. Another mission composed of two I.L.O. officials visited Latin America from July to October 1949 to study problems connected with migration and land settlement. The countries visited were Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay. A mission to survey manpower facilities and needs, including vocational training, similar to the one which visited Latin America, has begun work in the Middle East; the countries which this mission has visited are Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon and Syria.

Demonstrations of training within industry have been held by the I.L.O. in Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. An I.L.O. official has visited Egypt and Greece to study manpower problems and in particular to advise on the organisation of vocational training facilities. An official has also visited India and Pakistan on a similar mission.

In the field of social security I.L.O. officials have visited the Philippines to advise on the organisation of social insurance schemes and Czechoslovakia to advise on changes in legislation of the national insurance scheme, with particular reference to coverage of persons working on their own account, changes in contributions and benefits, supplementary benefits and State contributions. An expert was on mission from November 1949 to April 1950 to advise the Government of Iran on social security schemes. Two I.L.O. officials went to Egypt in January 1950 to advise the Government on social insurance organisation. An I.L.O. official also visited India in March 1950 to advise on administrative procedure for the social insurance scheme.
An I.L.O. official visited Venezuela to advise on the improvement of labour statistics, in particular, employment, wages, hours of work and unemployment statistics.

Three I.L.O. officials visited Iran and two officials visited Iraq in January and February 1950 to study social conditions in the petroleum industry. An I.L.O. official was also on mission in Iran in February 1950 to study the agricultural situation. An expert was in Turkey from January to March 1950 to advise the Government on the organisation of the co-operative movement, and an I.L.O. official spent some time in Iran to report on progress made in this field since the visit of the previous I.L.O. mission.¹

An I.L.O. official visited Egypt in February 1950 to advise the Government on industrial health questions and on means of combating occupational diseases.

Two I.L.O. officials visited Ceylon and India in February 1950 to study conditions of work on plantations.

A number of missions have been planned to take place in the coming months.

Assistance has been requested by Iran and Venezuela to advise on the organisation of employment services.

In the field of social security an expert is to be sent to Turkey to survey problems connected with the administration of social insurance schemes.

Following previous I.L.O. missions to the country, officials will again be sent to Iran to make recommendations in the fields of labour inspection and conditions of work for women and juvenile workers. An I.L.O. expert is to be a member of a team of experts sent by the United Nations to Bolivia. He will study and report on labour legislation in that country.

**PROVISION OF INFORMATION**

Besides these missions, the I.L.O. has continued to furnish advice in writing to various Governments and organisations. Technical assistance of this kind occurs too frequently to be listed here; by way of example the following might be mentioned.

In the field of co-operation and handicrafts, memoranda have been sent to Canada dealing with legislation on co-operatives throughout the world, to Ceylon on co-operative

¹ Second Report, p. 87.
education in schools and universities, to France on fishermen's co-operatives in various countries and on legislation concerning building and housing co-operatives, to India on joint-farming societies, to Iran on regulations for co-operative societies, to Luxembourg on co-operative sickness insurance schemes, to Turkey on statistics of housing co-operatives, etc.

Memoranda on wages and similar questions have been sent to Belgium (on profit sharing schemes in industry and commerce), to India (on statistics of labour productivity in various countries), to Iran (on minimum wage fixing regulations), to Norway (on wage systems in the building industry), to the Union of South Africa (on methods of calculating wage rates in the textile industry), etc.

The Governments of Belgium, India and the Federation of Malaya have been given information on methods of establishing statistics of employment, wages and hours of work.

As regards the protection of young workers, information was given to Israel concerning the extent and nature of such legislation in all parts of the world, and to Austria and Iran concerning the employment of young persons in hazardous occupations.

The I.L.O. Fellowships Programme

At its 110th Session (December 1949-January 1950) the Governing Body adopted proposals for a fellowships programme and for a scheme of special grants for the study of the I.L.O. It decided that 15 fellows will be selected during 1950, one from each of 15 countries determined on the basis of geographical distribution. In addition, three fellows will be selected from non-autonomous territories under the control respectively of the United Kingdom, France and Belgium. The fields of study in which fellowships will be awarded will include employment organisation, vocational training and guidance, social security administration, industrial relations, labour inspection and industrial health, safety and welfare. The duration of tenure of fellowships will in general be from three to six months. The details of the scheme conform to the common standards for fellowships programmes evolved through the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the basis of recommendations made by the technical working group on fellowships programmes.

Under the scheme for special grants for the study of the
I.L.O., 12 grants will be made during the year for periods of not more than two months each at Geneva. Of the 12 grants, four will be made to nominees of workers' organisations, four to nominees of employers' organisations, and four to nominees of Governments. Each of the three groups of the Governing Body is to propose a list of four countries from which nominations are to be made. These countries are to be on as wide a geographical basis as possible.

The Governing Body also decided that the I.L.O. should take measures to stimulate the development of other fellowship systems within the fields of study in which the I.L.O. is interested.

**THE EXPANDED CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

When the Economic and Social Council at its Ninth Session (July-August 1949) drew up recommendations regarding the machinery to be established for handling requests by Governments for technical assistance under the new expanded co-operative programme, it had before it a statement of views on these questions adopted by the International Labour Conference in June 1949. The Council laid down the principles which should guide action to be taken on such requests and made recommendations concerning the collection of funds for this purpose and their distribution among the United Nations and the specialised agencies concerned. The General Assembly in November 1949 approved the arrangements recommended by the Council. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was thereby authorised to set up a special account for technical assistance for economic development to be available to those organisations which participate in the expanded programme of technical assistance and which accept the guiding principles and arrangements for the programme approved by the Assembly. The Governing Body at its 110th Session (January 1950) agreed to I.L.O. participation in the technical assistance programme on the basis of these guiding principles. The Governing Body has established a tripartite Committee on Technical Assistance for Economic Development to advise it on the questions relating to the programme. The I.L.O. participates in the Technical Assistance Board.

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