

# Significant Early Documents of the Specialized Agencies Related to the United Nations

THE Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, at its final meeting in London on Feb. 18, 1946, set up, together with other commissions and committees, a negotiating committee of twelve members to study methods of bringing the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Bank and Fund, and UNESCO into relationship with the United Nations and to work out preliminary draft agreements with these agencies. The draft agreements were submitted to the second session of the Economic and Social Council which opened at Hunter College on May 25, 1946.

The International Labour Conference, at its twenty-seventh session, adopted on Nov. 5, 1945, an instrument for the amendment of the Constitution of the International Labour Organization, enabling it to establish a cooperative relationship with the United Nations. The text may be found in the *Official Bulletin of the International Labour Office*, v. 28, Dec. 15, 1945, p. 1-4.

The other three agencies have in their constitutions special clauses providing for a relationship with the United Nations.

## *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (F.A.O.)*

F.A.O. was the first of the new permanent United Nations organizations. It was originally planned at the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture at Hot

Springs, Va., from May 18 to June 3, 1943. The first step was the setting up of an Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture, July 15, 1943, for the purpose of formulating and recommending for consideration by all member governments a specific plan for a permanent organization in the field of food and agriculture.

The original documents of the Hot Springs Conference were in the form of loose mimeographed papers, not for general circulation. The final act and relevant documents were published in the United States as:

*United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture, Hot Springs, Virginia, May 18-June 3, 1943. Final Act and Section Reports.* Washington, Government Printing Office, 1943. 59p. (Department of State Publication, 1948, Conference Series 52.)

In Great Britain, the final act and accompanying documents were issued in two separate publications as:

*Final Act of the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture.* London, H.M. Stationery Office, 1943. (Cmd. 6451.)

*United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture. Section Reports on the Conference.* London, H.M. Stationery Office, 1943. (Cmd. 6461.)

\* After a year's work, the interim commission completed the draft of a constitution for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. This, together with a detailed report on its activities, was sub-

mitted in the following form to each of the forty-four governments represented at the Hot Springs Conference:

*First Report to the Government of the United Nations by the Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture.* Washington, Aug. 1, 1944. 55p.

On Dec. 14, 1944, the British Government accepted this constitution. The text of its instrument of acceptance, together with the text of the constitution itself and, as an appendix, the first report of the interim commission, were published as:

*Documents Relating to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 1st August-14th December 1944.* London, H.M. Stationery Office, 1945. 42p. (Cmd. 6590.) Miscellaneous No. 4 (1945)

By May 30, 1945, twenty-two nations had accepted the constitution, making it possible for the organization to come into existence. The interim commission carried out its final function before being automatically dissolved upon the coming into being of F.A.O.; it convened the first plenary session of F.A.O. at Quebec City in Canada, Oct. 16, 1945.

Five technical committees of the interim commission had, in the meantime, conducted research on agricultural production, nutrition and food management, forestry, fisheries, and statistics respectively and submitted the results of their findings in the form of reports to the Quebec Conference:

*Five Technical Reports on Food and Agriculture, Submitted to the United Nations Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture by Its Technical Committees on Nutrition and Food Management, Agricultural Production, Fisheries, Forestry and Primary Forest Products, Statistics.* Washington, D.C., Aug. 20, 1945. 313p. Issued also in five separate parts.

Other documents distributed to member governments at the time of the Quebec Conference were:

*Second Report to the Governments of the*

*United Nations by the Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture.* Washington, D.C., July 15, 1945. 3p.

This contained recommendations concerning the future of the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome.

*Third Report to the Governments of the United Nations by the Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture, Transmitting the Report of the Technical Committee on Forestry and Primary Forest Products.* Washington, D.C., Apr. 25, 1945. 47p.

*The Work of FAO: A General Report to the First Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Prepared by the Reviewing Panel and Circulated to Members of the Interim Commission by the Executive Committee.* Washington, D.C., Aug. 20, 1945. 57p.

The conference lasted from Oct. 16 to Nov. 1, 1945. Two commissions, A and B, were set up, one technical, comprising the above five committees, the other administrative. The principal documents of the conference were the journal and the final reports of these two commissions, which were unanimously adopted. There were, in addition, a large number of other papers, including reports of meetings of subcommissions, all of them mimeographed. These were not available for general distribution. The commission reports, together with a number of other documents, were published later by F.A.O. as:

*First Session. Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Journal.* v. 1, no. 1-15, Oct. 16-Nov. 1, 1945. Quebec City, Canada, 1945.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Report of the First Session of the Conference, Held at the City of Quebec, Canada, October 16 to November 1, 1945, Containing the Reports of Commission A (Policy and Program) and Commission B (Organization and Administration) with Supplementary Data Relating to Resolutions and Recommendations, the Budget, Rules of Pro-*

cedure, Financial Regulations, and the Constitution. Washington, January 1946. xxi, 89p., in double columns.

In Great Britain, these documents were published as:

*Documents Relating to the First Session of the Food and Agriculture Conference of the United Nations, Quebec, Canada, 16th October-1st November, 1945.* London, H.M. Stationery Office, January 1946. 62p. (Cmd. 6731.) Miscellaneous No. 3 (1946)

There is also available from F.A.O. a limited number of copies of a made-up volume entitled *Basic Documents of F.A.O.*, at \$2.50 per copy, containing the following documents:

*Report of the First Session of the Conference, Held at the City of Quebec, Canada, October 16 to November 1, 1945.*

FAO Conference. First session. *Draft: Provisional Program of Work for the First Session.* Washington, Aug. 4, 1945.

United Nations Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture. *The Work of FAO.* [Washington, Aug. 20, 1945.]

*Third Report to the Governments of the United Nations by the Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture.* Washington, Apr. 25, 1945.

*Second Report to the Governments of the United Nations by the Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture.* Washington, July 16, 1945.

*First Report to the Governments of the United Nations by the Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture.* Washington, Aug. 1, 1944.

United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture, Hot Springs, Va., May 18-June 3, 1943. *Final Act and Section Reports.* Washington, 1943.

At Quebec a resolution was adopted calling for the taking over by F.A.O. of the library, archives, and properties of the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome, the Centre International de Sylviculture, and the Comité International du Bois.

It was further decided that English, French, Spanish, and Russian were to be the official languages, with English and French to be used in debates and documents.

During the first part of April 1946 F.A.O. held a meeting in London of a panel of experts from various international and regional organizations for consultation in connection with the setting up of permanent services in the field of statistics, scientific abstracting, library service, and bibliographic information.

Additional early publications of F.A.O. which have been widely circulated are:

*FAO Information Service Bulletin*, no. 1, Dec. 3, 1945; no. 2, Apr. 2, 1946. Irregularly issued.

*FAO, Cornerstone For a House of Life* by Gove Hambidge. [Washington, 1946.] 24p.

*Facts about FAO.* Washington, D.C., Apr. 12, 1946. 7p.

#### *Bretton Woods Agreements*

The United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference at Bretton Woods, N.H., July 1-22, 1944, attended by experts of forty-four nations, dealt with machinery for currency stabilization and to provide long-term credit for permanent reconstruction and the development of untapped productive resources. For this purpose, draft constitutions for an international monetary fund and for a bank for reconstruction and development were drawn up. Each of these bodies is to be headed by a board of governors composed of representatives of all the member countries and a board of executive directors of whom there are to be always at least twelve, with five of their number to represent the five members having the largest national quotas.

The original documentation of the Bretton Woods Conference consisted of over five hundred separate mimeographed papers,

comprising in addition to reports of meetings and technical papers submitted, the following:

*Journal of the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference.* Bretton Woods, N.H., no. 1-22, July 1-22, 1944. Mimeographed.

The only printed document of the conference was:

United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference. *Officers of the Conference, Members of the Delegations, Officers of the Secretariat.* Revised to July 9. Bretton Woods, N.H., July 1944. 32p.

These were available only to delegations and their staffs. The text of the final agreements was issued in the United States as:

*Articles of Agreement: International Monetary Fund and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference, Bretton Woods, N.H., July 1 to 22, 1944.* Washington, D.C., U.S. Treasury [1945]. 89p.

United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference, Bretton Woods, N.H., July 1 to July 22, 1944. *Final Act and Related Documents.* Washington, Government Printing Office, 1944. 122p. (Department of State Publication 2187, Conference Series 55.)

In an effort to win support for United States participation in the fund and the bank, the U. S. State Department and Treasury, besides reprinting various statements made by officials in support of the measure, issued the following pamphlets, which are available free:

*Conference at Bretton Woods Prepares Plans for International Finance* by John Parke Young. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1944. 28p. (Department of State Publication 2216, Conference Series 57.)

U.S. Treasury. *The Bretton Woods Proposals.* Washington, D.C., Feb. 15, 1945. 13p.

— *The Bretton Woods Proposals. Questions and Answers on the Fund and Bank.* Washington, D.C., Mar. 15, 1945. 16p.

— *Charts Relating to the Bretton Woods Proposals* [Washington D.C.] Apr. 30, 1945. 18p. and charts. Oblong.

The British Government, in the meantime, published the documents relating to the Bretton Woods Conference as:

United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference, Bretton Woods, N.H., U.S.A., July 1 to July 22, 1944. *Final Act.* London, H.M. Stationery Office, 1944. 70p. (Cmd. 6546.)

United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference, Bretton Woods, N.H., U.S.A., July 1 to July 22, 1944. *Documents Supplementary to the Final Act.* London, H.M. Stationery Office [1945] 24p. (Cmd. 6597.)

The agreements became operative Dec. 27, 1945, only a few days before the deadline set at Bretton Woods, when twenty-nine countries representing 65 per cent of the total quotas allotted by the agreements for the bank and the fund had ratified the Bretton Woods instrument. The United States, as the largest contributor, then called a preparatory conference for setting up the organization for the world fund and bank at Wilmington Island, Savannah, Ga., which lasted from March 8 to 18, 1946. Two full sessions of the boards of governors were held.

A journal was issued during the conference, but of the conference documents, only the following have come to hand so far:

World Fund and Bank. *Inaugural Meeting.* [Savannah, Ga.] *Fund Documents 1-30.* [n.p., 1946] Mimeographed.

## UNESCO

At the invitation of the British Government, representatives of forty-four United Nations met in London from Nov. 1 to 16, 1945, to discuss the adoption of a draft constitution for educational and cultural collaboration between the United Nations. This document had been prepared by the

Conference of Allied Ministers of Education in cooperation with United States educational authorities. The text of the draft constitution may be found in:

*Proposed Educational and Cultural Organization of the United Nations.* Washington, Government Printing Office, 1945. 27p. (Department of State Publication 2382.)

The London Conference ended on November 16 with the adoption of the draft constitution of UNESCO, whereby the signatories pledged themselves to collaborate in the advancement of mutual knowledge and understanding of peoples; to give fresh impulse to popular education and to the spread of culture; and to maintain, increase, and diffuse knowledge. The organization was formally established in November 1946, when the first general conference was held in Paris.

The early documents of the United Nations Conference for the Establishment of an Educational and Cultural Organization were in the form of mimeographed papers, solely for the use of the delegations. The final documents comprise the final act, the constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, and an instrument establishing a preparatory educational, scientific, and cultural commission, also several resolutions. They were issued in the United States as:

*"the defenses of peace": Documents Relating to UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.*

Pt. I. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1946. 31p. (Department of State Publication 2457, Conference Series 80.)

And in Great Britain as:

*Final Act of the United Nations Conference for the Establishment of an Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.* (With related documents.) London, Nov. 16, 1945. London, H.M. Stationery Office, 1945. 25p. (Cmd. 6711.) Miscellaneous No. 16 (1945)

### UNRRA

UNRRA is a wartime agency established by virtue of an agreement signed in Washington Nov. 9, 1943, by representatives of forty-four countries. Its purpose is limited strictly to relief and immediately needed rehabilitation, not long-term reconstruction.

Due to UNRRA's temporary character, an organic connection with the United Nations is not possible at this stage, but there is nevertheless close cooperation. The publications of UNRRA have been fully described by Olive L. Sawyer in an article entitled "Information Please, on UNRRA," which appeared in *The Booklist*, July 15, 1945, p. 328-31.

All the more important early publications by and about UNRRA will be found in: *Selected Reading List on United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, Prepared by the United Nations Information Office in Consultation with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.* New York [1945], a 10-page folder, with its supplement [1946], an 8-page folder.