

# THE LISTENING POST

## The World Role of Education

Have you read the draft of the proposed constitution for a United Nations Educational and Cultural Organization? The State Department has just published a pamphlet containing the suggested constitution and some explanatory material. This pamphlet can be obtained from the Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., price 10 cents. Ask for Department of State Publication 2382. This draft was prepared by the Council of Allied Ministers of Education in London. (Actually our own State Department had much to do with its preparation.) It was a major consideration of the United Nations Conference on Educational and Cultural Cooperation which met in London last month. This was the "San Francisco" conference on International Educational Cooperation.

The proposed constitution for this organization was studied carefully by the Liaison Committee for International Education in a meeting at the National Education Association headquarters on August 3, 1945. This committee consists of representatives of leading educational groups of the country. W. G. Carr, secretary of the Educational Policies Committee of the National Education Association, is chairman. It was the consensus of the committee that it is imperative for all educational groups to help arouse public opinion in favor of the establishment of this international organization concerned with educational and cultural cooperation. The United Nations Charter was adopted speedily in this country because it obviously had overwhelming support of the people of the land. The proposed international educational organization is not so well known. It may fail unless leaders of the country bring its values effectively before the people.

After the first world war, the place of education in international affairs was practically ignored. In the years which followed the world saw education used as a weapon of war. It can just as well be used as a powerful instrument for peace. Educators who served as consultants at San Francisco had to work hard to persuade the delegates of

AS THIS ISSUE of EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP goes to press, word comes of final approval by delegates to the London conference of a constitution for the United Nations Educational and Cultural Organization. The constitution becomes effective when ratified by twenty of the forty-three nations represented at the London meeting.

The purpose of this international organization, declares the constitution, is "to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human right and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world without distinction of race, sex, language or religion by the charter of the United Nations."

that assembly to recognize the importance of education in international relationships. They did a splendid job in getting frequent reference to education included in the United Nations Charter and in promoting the establishment of the proposed international organization for educational and cultural cooperation. Those efforts may prove to have been wasted unless others now help to obtain support for this international body.

Members of the Department of Supervision and Curriculum Development will render a splendid service to the cause of international understanding if they focus attention of teachers and others in their communities upon the values which can come from the Educational and Cultural Organization of the United Nations. Learn what happened at the meeting in London. Bring it to the attention of others. Make sure that the values which can come from international cooperation in educational and cultural matters are well understood by all people throughout the land. Be prepared to write to senators and encourage others to write in support of the United Nations Educational and Cultural Organization when time for action in the Senate approaches.—WALTER E. HAGER, *President, Wilson Teachers College, Washington, D. C.*, for the DSCD Legislative Committee.

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