

# ecosoc conference news

The Economic and Social Council of the UN met in Geneva for its fifty-third summer session from July 3 - 28.

A request for a study regarding the world's multinational corporations, a call on the Governments concerned for action to stop the reported clandestine trafficking in labor from Africa to Europe, far-reaching recommendations on land reform, and measures to eliminate mass poverty and unemployment in the developing countries, were some of the major decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council.

Of particular interest to the Agency are the following matters:

## 1. Science and Technology

A standing committee on science and technology, for which the Council at this session approved terms of reference and a programme of work, was established last year to provide guidance and to make recommendations on matters relating to assistance in the application of science and technology to development.

Under the mandate as approved, the standing committee was given the power to suggest scientific and technological policies to promote development in the interest of all mankind. It will assist the Council in co-ordinating the activities of United Nations bodies in the field of science and technology and in appraisal of this field during the decade of the 1970s.

2. The Council also decided to return to the question of United Nations sponsorship of the Protein Advisory Group (PAG) in the summer of 1973. It invited the Secretary-General, in the meantime, to work out proposals for the operation and administration of a special protein fund.

## 3. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

The Council further has recommended that at its forthcoming session the General Assembly should consider the establishment of a United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration with a view to finalizing and approving the Statute.

## Membership of the Council

Members of the council are: Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, Ceylon, Chile, China, Finland, France, Ghana, Haiti, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malaysia, New Zealand, Niger, Peru, Poland, Tunisia, Soviet Union, United Kingdom, United States and Zaire. The Council has as its President for 1972, Karoly Szarka (Hungary). Its three Vice-Presidents are: Sergio Armando Frazao (Brazil), Miss Phaik Gan Lim (Malaysia) and John V. Scott (New Zealand).