Resolution Adopted by the International Labour Organisation

The following communication, forwarded to the Executive Secretary by the Director General of the International Labour Office, is reproduced herewith for the information of contracting parties:

"I have the honour to refer to the resolutions and observations adopted at the Fifth Asian Regional Conference of the International Labour Organisation (Melbourne, 26 November-7 December 1962), which included a resolution concerning measures to promote stable prices of basic commodities on world markets and other measures for the effective utilization of resources and the improvement of living standards.

"In pursuance of a decision taken by the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation at its 154th Session (March 1963), I have the honour to communicate to you herewith, for your information, the text of this resolution and, in so doing, would point out that the Governing Body asked me, in accordance with the request made in paragraph 1(a) of the resolution, to draw the special attention of the international organizations concerned to the vital importance of price stability on the economic and social development of countries presently suffering from commodity price fluctuations. At the same time I would mention the view expressed by a member of the Governing Body that this resolution might be of interest to the Meeting of Trade Ministers being convened by GATT from 16 to 21 May 1963."
Resolution Concerning Measures to Promote Stable Prices of Basic Commodities in World Markets and Other Measures for the Effective Utilization of Resources and the Improvement of Living Standards

The Fifth Asian Regional Conference of the International Labour Organisation, held in Melbourne (Australia) from 26 November to 7 December 1962,

Recognizing that the steady and vigorous economic development of many Asian countries heavily dependent on their own raw materials and products would be greatly strengthened if there were greater price stability for these commodities in world markets and that the absence of such stability can seriously imperil employment and living standards in those countries,

Realizing that a means must be found to ensure effective international action in this field having regard especially to the inevitable adverse social consequences of wide fluctuations in world prices of raw materials and products,

Realizing also that some steps have already been taken to bring about world commodity agreements providing for greater price stability and that continuous action in this respect must assume an important place in the work of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other responsible international bodies, and

Recognizing however that other measures need to be taken to ensure that all available resources are used to the fullest effect with due regard to the importance of improving living standards and conditions of work;

1. Requests the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation:

(a) to take appropriate action to emphasize with other responsible international bodies including those of the United Nations family seeking means of promoting greater price stability of commodities on world markets, the vital importance of price stability on the economic and social development of countries presently suffering from commodity price fluctuations;

(b) to ensure that through the ILO operational programmes and the field co-ordinating centres established by the United Nations under the technical assistance arrangements and as part of their efforts to establish living standards and conditions of work in line with the international conventions and recommendations of the ILO, close attention is given to measures designed;
(i) to bring about fuller land and labour utilization;

(ii) to promote agricultural and handicraft co-operatives;

(iii) to provide suitable credit and other arrangements for agricultural, handicraft and other small industries;

(iv) to allow for maximum participation of all concerned at the national, regional and village levels in the preparation and execution of economic and social development plans.

2. Urges all States members of the ILO to endeavour to increase through bilateral as well as through multilateral action the technical assistance they are already providing to governments in the Asian region to assist in solving their problems in the social, labour and economic fields.

3. Calls upon the responsible authorities in Asia to make greater efforts when seeking technical assistance to identify the priority of problems requiring attention and to make the most effective use of such technical assistance as is provided, whether by other States members, the ILO or other international bodies.

4. Urges all Asian governments to pursue policies of balanced economic and social development so that measures of economic expansion are accompanied and reinforced by the promotion of social and human rights of workers. Such steps should include the ratification of the international instruments adopted by the ILO having a bearing on social and economic development, and more especially those dealing with individual freedom and respect for human life and dignity, such as the conventions concerning forced labour, freedom of association and the right to organize, and discrimination.