

# CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ASIAN INSPECTION SERVICES

Such Conferences should be convened at sufficiently frequent intervals.

As regards the proposed resolution on labour inspection, the Office text, in the main, was adopted by the Committee with certain minor amendments. Some discussion ensued, however, when the workers' members proposed the insertion in the resolution of a new paragraph to provide that officials of trade-union organizations should be empowered to exercise the right of inspection and investigation as to compliance with labour legislation. It was considered that such a measure would constitute an important guarantee for the full and effective application of labour legislation, and it was pointed out that examples of such arrangements were already to be found in some cases.

Opposition to the amendment in the form in which it was proposed was expressed by several Government members and the employers' members. It was pointed out that the powers exercised by an inspection service to enter and inspect workplaces were powers properly belonging to the State and could not be handed over to private persons or organizations. The view was also expressed that if the intention of the proposal were to promote collaboration between representatives of trade-unions and officials of inspection services, with the principle of which a number of members agreed, it would seem possible to find a form of words which would not suggest impingement on the power and responsibility of a public authority to ensure the enforcement of the law.

The Committee decided to refer to its officers the question of finding a generally acceptable form of words. As a result of these discussions, the following proposal was brought forward :—

“ Appropriate arrangements should be made to promote direct collaboration between officials of labour inspection services and employers and workers or their organizations.”

This text was adopted by the Committee without opposition.

As regards the second proposed resolution, the employers' members expressed the view that, while they agreed in principle with the object of the proposed resolution, they felt that such technical meetings should be held only when and as necessary and that it would be desirable to convene meetings when, in the view of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, the need was indicated in the light of the reports furnished by Governments in connection with the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947.

An amended text incorporating the employers' suggestion was adopted by the Committee.

The Indian Government member submitted the following additional resolution for the consideration of the Committee :—

“ Whereas the strict enforcement of legislation for the protection of women and young persons might have the undesirable effect of reducing employment possibilities for women and young persons in workplaces covered by the law and of either excluding them from the employment market or driving them to seek employment in unregulated workplaces where conditions of work are invariably worse ;

“ Whereas nonetheless it is essential that the conditions of employment of women and young persons should be carefully regulated ; and

“ Taking note of the emphasis laid by the Preparatory Conference on Labour Inspection in Asian countries, meeting at Kandy, Ceylon, in November, 1948, on the need of solving this problem,

“ The Asian Regional Conference, held at Nuwara Eliya, Ceylon, adopts this day of , 1950, the following resolution :—

“ ‘ The Conference requests the Governing Body to instruct the International Labour Office to undertake a detailed study of this problem and the manner in which it has been solved in the industrially advanced countries.’ ”