

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL CONVENTION.

The International Meteorological Organisation was set up in 1878 as the result of the deliberations of a World Meteorological Congress convened in that year. Ever since its inception, it has been recognised as the international agency for the co-ordination of world meteorology. But as it had not been subject to any International Convention it has retained an unofficial status. Recent developments in meteorology, particularly in international aviation and the growing appreciation of the importance of meteorology to agriculture and to all forms of transport and application to public health and industry, have shown the need for giving the organisation a more official status. A draft World Meteorological Convention was discussed in 1939 at a Conference of Directors held in Berlin but the war intervened and no further progress was made. In 1947 at the Conference of Directors held in Washington the articles of a World Meteorological Convention were unanimously adopted and signed by Directors present at the Conference on behalf of their respective Governments subject to ratification.

2. The Government of India had ratified the above Convention and the Instrument of Ratification had been deposited with the Government of the United States of America on April 27, 1949. This Convention shall come into force on the 30th day after the date of deposit of the 30th Instrument of Ratification or Accession.

3. Under the Convention the World Meteorological Congress which will consist of delegates from each member country will be the supreme body. The examination of technical questions will be the responsibility of a number of technical Commissions, the

recommendations of which will be submitted to the Congress for approval. The Organisation will also include Regional Associations, with areas of responsibility corresponding broadly with the continents. The functions of these Regional Associations will include examination and co-ordination of the special technical requirements of the area covered by each Association.

4. The meetings of the Congress will be held at intervals not exceeding four years. During the intervals, the affairs of the Organisation will be directed by an Executive Committee consisting of 15 members elected by Congress, meeting annually. The permanent staff of the Organisation will consist of a Secretary-General, together with technical and clerical staff, all other officers of the Organisation will be honorary.

5. An agreement is proposed to be executed bringing the World Meteorological Organisation into relationship with the United Nations Organisation as the specialised agency on all meteorological matters.

6. The number of ratifications and accessions is soon expected to reach thirty and consequently the first World Meteorological Congress is proposed to be held in the autumn of 1950 or the spring of 1951.