PARIS' HOTEL MAJESTIC — where only a few years ago the voice of the Nazi High Command directed the occupation of France — in sharp contrast this summer will hear the voice of a democratic German Federal Republic seeking membership in the family of peaceful nations.

For the listening delegates of the 59 member states of the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) meeting at the headquarters of its secretariat for its annual general conference, it will be the climax to their attempt to give Germany a new conscience.

This attempt was born in the form of a resolution at Mexico City in 1947. It was nurtured in the three years that followed at general conferences in Beirut, Paris and Florence. It achieved maturity last November when the German committee for UNESCO activities was formed in anticipation of the day when Germany would become a member state.

UNESCO opened its first office in Germany at Stuttgart in 1948. A year later offices were also functioning at Mainz in the French Zone and at Dusseldorf in the British Zone. Doing its share to bring Germany into the orbit of peace-loving nations also afforded UNESCO an opportunity to demonstrate its effectiveness at contributing to understanding among peoples.

THESE EARLY UNESCO OFFICES in Germany had three main functions: to establish liaison between UNESCO and the Allied authorities; to establish and maintain contact with appropriate official circles, private groups and individuals within Germany and to act as UNESCO information centers for their respective zones.

The aims and purposes of UNESCO are channeled to the German people through the media of press, radio, exhibitions and lectures.

Important activities continue to be the exchange and distribution of publications, the gathering of material for UNESCO's exchange of persons program and the inclusion of Germany in UNESCO's worldwide endeavor to improve textbooks and other teaching material. An exchange center for publications at Bad Godesberg, near Bonn, handles direct book exchanges between West German libraries and UNESCO member states.

UNESCO's repeated attempts to extend its activities to the Eastern zone have met with little success. And
often Eastern member nations of the international body have voiced objections in policy meetings about the work in the German field. But German field activities have managed to carry on at a progressive rate.

Inadequate personnel and a limited budget (the German program is receiving approximately $144,000 out of UNESCO’s 1951 budget of $8,150,000) have been the main obstacles in UNESCO’s effort to integrate Germany into its rightful place in the UNESCO family. This was brought out by Allied officials at the general conference in Florence last June when it was stated that German authorities had enthusiastically received the limited activities of UNESCO and were now eager to cooperate with an expanded program.

UP TO THAT TIME, Dr. John W. Thompson, in charge of UNESCO’s work in Germany, had been traveling extensively, getting in touch with those Germans he felt could take over the UNESCO work on a local level. These persons would become Germany’s national committee when Germany is elected a member state. Many meetings resulted in the formation of the committee of 60 members which, until Germany assumes membership in the international organization, will work under the title of the German Committee for UNESCO Activities.

With a promise of DM 80,000 ($19,000) from the Federal Government, this group of individuals, prominent in Germany’s educational, scientific and cultural life, met and wrote their constitution. At the same meeting on Nov. 7, 1950, officers were elected. Prof. Walter Erbe, president of the University of Tuebingen, was chosen as chairman. Dr. Dolf Sternberger, Heidelberg journalist, became first vice-president. Dr. Karl Erdmann, lecturer in history at the University of Cologne, was named secretary general.

Cologne was selected as the committee’s home and Wiesbaden as the headquarters for the international segment of UNESCO, the other field offices having been dissolved. By dividing themselves into seven groups, the committee will be able to carry its work into all phases of German life—from the church to the trade union—from the school to the home.

THE STAGE THUS WAS SET by last December for the Federal Republic’s formal application for membership in UNESCO. In a letter accompanying the application, Federal Chancellor Konrad Adenauer stated that the UNESCO program “has awakened the greatest interest and sincere willingness for cooperation among the members of the Federal Government and state ministries for cultural matters. The Federal Government feels that the time has now come to consider full German cooperation in the endeavors of UNESCO through the Federal Republic’s official joining of the organization.”

While the national committee awaits its fate in June, it confines itself mainly to planning for its future. It also is aiding current UNESCO projects such as preparation and production of revised textbooks, a sociological survey on the attitudes of youth toward authority, studies in the problems of and experiments in dealing with war-handicapped children, a book-coupon program enabling purchase of member nation books without currency difficulties, international copyright recognition studies and an extensive survey of problems and barriers to a better understanding between youth of other nations and those of Germany.

However, UNESCO bases its hopes for success in Germany on three international institutes now in various stages of planning. Estimated to cost nearly $100,000 in the first two years of their operation, the Institute for Youth Activities, the Institute for the Social Sciences and the Institute for Pedagogy will be large-scale practical operations of what UNESCO has been talking about since its inception. The three organizations will be governed by a board of prominent international experts.

THE YOUTH INSTITUTE will be perhaps the most important and most active of the three organizations. It will support those agencies within Germany which develop in youth a sense and spirit of responsibility toward the international community. German youth will be encouraged to participate in UNESCO’s coming mobilization of the world’s young people in the service of peace and international cooperation principally by the Institute’s aid to employment, vocational training and recreation.

The study of the United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the organization of international seminars within the country will be stressed.

The Institute for International Activities in the field of social sciences will aim at studying some of the main problems of contemporary German life. A major aspect of its work will be the adaptation of new social science techniques to the needs of the German situation and the development of teaching and training activities.

The Pedagogical Institute will encourage and aid scholars in examining educational systems and will advance studies and surveys to bring about revisions in the system. The Institute’s work will not be limited to the universities but will also concern itself with edu-

Large crowds viewed the UNESCO displays in Munich, studied maps and read text of preamble to UNESCO Constitution suspended from the ceiling of exhibition hall.
cation in the home and the labor field, UNESCO hopes, through it, to give experts the opportunity to observe countries analyzing their own systems, questioning their worthiness and changing them to suit their own needs.

WHILE UNESCO’s PRESENT PROJECTS are dwarfed by the immense cultural affairs programs being carried on by the Occupying Powers, all concerned are aware that the day is coming when UNESCO will have to assume a greater portion of the work. At the National Conference on Occupied Countries held in Washington last December, 175 private US agencies adopted a resolution stating American relations with occupied areas should be designed to assist the nationals of those countries in broadening their participation in international agencies, particularly UNESCO.

Donations of small countries like Lebanon and Switzerland, amounting to $5,000 and $10,000 respectively, to further the efforts of UNESCO in Germany, too, symbolize the hopes of the world in an organization like UNESCO toward its goal — a better tomorrow.

The success of UNESCO’s efforts in Germany depends mainly upon the German people. While their leaders, championed by those of other nations, speak their cause in Berlin, Munich, the towns of the Rhineland and elsewhere will be taking the word of UNESCO directly to the front door of Mr. German Public.

The man-in-the-street — the farmer, industrialist, millworker, housewife, student — by listening, thinking and

This scene of a UNESCO general conference in home of General Secretary in Paris will be repeated this summer, when Germany’s application for membership in UNESCO family will come before its 59 member states. acting in terms of universal brotherhood can put life and meaning into the words uttered by UNESCO Director-General Jaime Torres Bodet: “UNESCO is the conscience of the world,” — and, in doing so, can bring to Germany new life — and to the world, new hope. + END

Good Neighbors Aid Munich Needy

A Good Neighbor Committee, sparked by both Americans and Germans, has been organized in Munich to help refugees who are willing to help themselves.

Mrs. George N. Shuster, wife of the US state commissioner for Bavaria, has announced a six-point assistance program adopted by the committee for its refugee aid project:

To make personal contacts with individual refugee families in cases where official assistance seems inadequate;

To improve the economic condition of the refugee by encouraging families and individuals to help themselves with a view to becoming self-supporting;

Munich’s Mayor Wimmer hands Mrs. Shuster DM 2,000 check to further Good Neighbors’ aid program. (OLCB photo)

To improve kindergarten establishments with furniture, toys, occupational toys, sanitary equipment, wall pictures and flooring materials;

To improve the lot of the aged and disabled;

To arrange programs including festivals, educational and health consultations and film showings especially for youngsters, and to improve recreational opportunities; and

To promote the cultural interests of the refugees.

Aid committees, each comprising a German, an American and a refugee, are being set up in each of approximately 25 refugee camps in the Munich area. Their recommendations will guide the Good Neighbor Committee in its efforts to assist the camps. Aid committees will be set up later to investigate the needs of other groups and individuals.

The assistance plan, designed to help co-ordinate welfare activities in the area, was suggested by Mrs. Shuster and was overwhelmingly approved by representative German and American groups and individuals, including German welfare and religious organizations, labor and management representatives.

Impetus to the committee’s fund-raising efforts to enable it to carry out its objectives was given with the presentation to the committee of a check for DM 2,000 ($476) by Munich’s Mayor Thomas Wimmer.