

RECOMMENDATION No. 26

concerning

THE TEACHING OF GEOGRAPHY AS A MEANS OF DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING (1949)

The International Conference on Public Education,

Convened at Geneva by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Bureau of Education and being assembled on the fourth of July for its twelfth session, adopts on the eighth of July, nineteen hundred and forty-nine, the following recommendation:

The Conference,

Considering that the introductory report, drawn up by the French experts in preparation for the Unesco Seminar devoted to the teaching of geography as a means of developing international understanding, has been accepted as a useful basis for discussion,

That the proposed definition of geography, principles and teaching methods have been adopted, with the reservation that greater stress be laid on the following problems:

a) how to draw up curricula and to set examinations so as to encourage active, concrete, up-to-date and comparative teaching;

b) by what psychological and teaching methods the feeling that may lead a child to regard himself as the centre of the world, may be diminished, and the sense of interdependence and moral unity among mankind increased it being understood that all education should reconcile love of country with an understanding of other countries, and with a respect for their sovereignty in a world where all nations must be considered as possessing equal rights; and

R 26

c) how in the world of to-day to teach geography objectively;

That Unesco has decided to publish this introductory report, after the observations given above have been taken into account;

Submits to the Ministries of Education of the various countries the following recommendation:

1) That the distribution of this pamphlet be assured in all educational circles, so that secondary and primary teachers may become conscious of the problem, may discuss it, make suggestions, and undertake the necessary experiments;

2) That as soon as possible the experts be nominated to participate in the 1950 Unesco Seminar on the teaching of geography, so that they may actively and usefully prepare for it during a sufficiently long period, and may make the necessary contacts with the various educational circles in their own countries.