

**TRANSCRIPT OF
UNESCO COURIER ARTICLE**

Publication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Vol. 1, No. 1

February, 1948

“M. Maritain Calls for Unity”

The text of the UNESCO Appeal (printed in the adjoining column) was placed before the General Conference by the President of the French Delegation, M. Jacques Maritain. It is based upon the principles expounded at the beginning of the Conference, by the famous French philosopher, who declared:

“We meet at a particularly grave moment in the world's history. In face of international tension and growing antagonism; the, danger of which it would be vain to underestimate, vast sections of public opinion risk abandoning themselves to the idea of the inevitability of war”.

“What makes UNESCO's task seem at first paradoxical is that it presupposes unity of thought among men whose conceptions, are different and even opposed. However deep we go there is no longer any common basis for speculative thought. In these conditions, is unity of thought conceivable?”

This unity is possible, answered M. Maritain, because UNESCO's ends are practical ones: “Agreement may still result spontaneously, not from a common speculative philosophy but from a common practical philosophy. This is enough to launch a great enterprise.”