

programme about 3,000 refugees are currently receiving medical care, supplementary feeding and other material help; in the sphere of permanent solutions 321 "difficult cases" have been or will shortly be settled in institutions and 583 families will be moving into new housing units very soon.

Statelessness

At its sixth session in 1954, the International Law Commission took up again¹ the question of statelessness and reconsidered two alternate draft Conventions, one on the elimination of future statelessness, and the other on the reduction of future statelessness. Some articles of the Conventions were revised on the basis of comments received from governments². From the comments received it appeared that some governments preferred the Convention on the reduction of future statelessness, but as others expressed no preference, the International Law Commission decided to submit both draft Conventions to the General Assembly.

Discussion of these drafts in the Legal Committee centred on the preliminary question of what procedure the General Assembly should adopt in dealing with them. There was a debate on the general principles underlying the Conventions, but little on the substance of the Conventions. The majority of states appeared to favour, in principle, the draft Convention on the reduction of statelessness. There was, however, no great enthusiasm for either draft, presumably because the provisions of both Conventions were at variance with the existing legislation of member states.

In 1954 the General Assembly adopted a resolution, by a vote of 36 in favour (including Canada), 7 against, with 11 abstentions, which requested the Secretary-General to convene a conference to conclude a convention for the reduction or elimination of future statelessness as soon as at least 20 states indicate their willingness to participate. By the end of 1955, only 13 states (Belgium, Denmark, El Salvador, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Israel, Lebanon, Monaco, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Yugoslavia) had signified a willingness to attend a conference.

Meanwhile, in accordance with a recommendation made by the Economic and Social Council³, a conference was held in September 1954, to draft a Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons. At the tenth session of the General Assembly in 1955, a number of delegations commended the work of the United Nations Conference on the Status of Stateless Persons and asked that the General Assembly take note of the work of the Conference and of the adoption and opening for signature of this Convention on September 28, 1954. A draft resolution was submitted jointly by Costa Rica, Denmark, El Salvador, the Netherlands and Norway in which the Secretary-General was requested "to invite any non-member of the United Nations which had not been invited to attend the Conference on the Status of Stateless Persons but which is, or hereafter becomes, a member of any Specialized Agency or is, or hereafter becomes, a party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, to accede to the Convention". The draft resolution also expressed the hope that governments would "take prompt action for the early ratification of, or accession to, the Convention". The Third Committee adopted this draft resolution by 22 in favour, 0 against, with 19 abstentions (including Canada). The resolution was subsequently adopted in plenary without discussion by 33 in favour, 0 against, with 23 abstentions (including Canada). The possibility of Canadian accession is at present under study.

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1953-54*, p. 53.

²General Assembly document A/2456, pp. 27-29.

³See *Canada and the United Nations 1953-54*, p. 53.