

VIII

THIRD (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE

Agenda items which raise questions of a predominantly social, cultural or human rights character are, as a rule, assigned for preliminary consideration to the Third Committee. As a result, the Committee plays a central role in the elaboration of international instruments in this area for adoption by the General Assembly and subsequent ratification by member states. In addition, it receives reports from and makes recommendations to ECOSOC, the Specialized Agencies and other subsidiary bodies engaged in social and related activities.

Marriage Convention

At its seventeenth session the Assembly completed the drafting of a "Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age of Marriage and Registration of Marriage". It was opened for ratification on Human Rights Day, December 10, 1962. The enabling resolution [1763 (XVII)] was approved by 92 in favour to none against, with 7 abstentions (including Canada). Since the text included subjects appearing to fall within the legislative competence of the provinces, Canada abstained pending full consultation with provincial governments. By the same resolution, a companion draft recommendation was referred back to the Commission on the Status of Women for further study.

Slavery Convention

Resolution 1841 (XVII), adopted unanimously, called on member states to become parties to the 1926 Convention and the 1956 Supplementary Convention of the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery. All member states are also urged to co-operate fully in carrying out the terms of these international instruments. Canada, already a party to the 1926 Convention, became the forty-third country to ratify the 1956 Supplementary Convention when, on January 10, 1963, its Permanent Representative to the United Nations deposited the necessary instrument of ratification with the United Nations Secretariat in New York.

International Control of Narcotics

Resolution 1774 (XVII), approved in the Assembly by 92 in favour to 1 against, with 4 abstentions, invited governments concerned to take the necessary steps for the ratification of, or accession to, the Single Convention on