

traffic is a serious social problem. During the fourteenth session the following countries were represented on the Commission: Austria, Canada, China, France, Hungary, India, Iran, Mexico, Peru, Turkey, U.S.S.R., United Arab Republic, United Kingdom, United States of America and Yugoslavia. In addition a number of countries and organizations were represented by observers.

The Canadian Representative on the Commission, Mr. K. C. Hossick, was elected first Vice-Chairman of the Commission and was also elected Chairman of the Illicit Traffic Committee, which met for three days prior to the session of the Commission.

The Commission studied the functioning of the international narcotic control system set up by eight multilateral treaties. About 90 states are parties to at least one of these treaties and practically all countries participate in their implementation. The Commission agreed that a plenipotentiary conference should be convened in Geneva during the latter part of 1960 to consider the adoption of a single convention on narcotic drugs which would consolidate and replace the existing international conventions.

The Commission recognized the need for provisional measures by governments to control the marketing of newly-developed substances which are capable of causing addiction during the period elapsing between their coming on the market and the application of international control measures. The Commission also reiterated the desirability of developing improved methods of determining the origin of opium. The Committee on Illicit Traffic pointed out that the problem of illicit traffic might well become more acute and the Commission drew the attention of governments to the need of close and continued co-operation in suppressing the illicit traffic. Considerable discussion was devoted to the problem of drug addiction among members of the medical and associated professions and stress was placed on the possible dangers resulting from the development of synthetic drugs and the increasing use of barbiturates and tranquilizers.

The Commission considered at some length the need for a modest programme of technical assistance to under-developed countries in the field of narcotic control. A recommendation in this regard by the Commission was subsequently approved by the fourteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Assembly recommended that a continuing programme for technical assistance in narcotic control should be established within the regular budget of the United Nations. As a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Canada had already fully endorsed this recommendation and the resolution was approved in the General Assembly by a vote of 76 votes in favour to none against.

In accordance with a resolution passed by the Economic and Social Council in 1958, a five-member "Middle East Narcotics Survey Mission" visited the Middle East in September and October of 1959 to study the problem in that area of illicit traffic in narcotics. The Mission, under the Chairmanship of Mr. L. H. Nicholson of Canada, spent six weeks in the Middle East consulting with governmental authorities and studying the problems faced by the enforcement agencies in the region. As a result of that study, the Mission prepared a report outlining the problems facing the Middle Eastern countries in their attempts to eliminate the illegal narcotics traffic and recommending a number of steps which the Mission hoped would decrease the traffic and the incidence of drug addiction in the Middle East.

### **Transport and Communications Commission**

Following the establishment of the Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) to take over duties under the International Conventions for the Safety of Life at Sea, the Transport and Communications