

The fifth and sixth sessions of the Assembly of ICAO, held in Montreal in 1951 and 1952, were limited sessions dealing for the most part with financial and administrative questions. Faced with urgent demands for economies, ICAO was able to hold its budgets to relative stability in the face of rising costs, while making no important reductions in its work programmes.

A headquarters agreement between the Canadian Government and the Organization was signed on April 14, 1951. It is the function of a headquarters agreement to provide for the legal status in the host country of the headquarters of an international organization, persons employed by it, and persons accredited by member states to it. The international practice is to accord such organizations and persons limited privileges and immunities — similar to but not as comprehensive as those enjoyed by sovereign states and diplomats — which may be necessary for the discharge of the organization's functions. The headquarters agreement between the Canadian Government and ICAO generally follows the pattern of agreements which have been concluded between other host states and Specialized Agencies of the United Nations.

No new states joined the Organization during the period under review. Spain took the twenty-first seat on the ICAO Council in 1951. Canada has been a member of the Council since the Organization's inception.

International Labour Organization

When the International Labour Organization (ILO) was founded in 1919 within the framework of the League of Nations, its main emphasis was on protective labour legislation. Thus it adopted Conventions setting forth standards for national legislation designed to limit hours of work, protect women and children from night work, eliminate child labour, and establish various conditions for the protection of seamen. ILO problems have changed, however, with the passing years, and of special interest now is the development from framing standards for labour legislation towards practical assistance in their implementation, particularly in underdeveloped countries.

Having early established a set of standards for labour legislation, ILO has endeavoured to keep it up to date by revisions and the adoption of new Conventions. There have been other fields of interest such as discussions on unemployment, which began at the first ILO Conference, and an important subsequent development was the adoption of a series of social security Conventions establishing, among others, standards for workmen's compensation, old age insurance, sickness insurance and unemployment benefits. Moreover, through technical committees ILO has been able to perform careful and detailed work in fields such as accident prevention and uniform labour statistics, and to give special continuing attention to particular problems and groups of workers. In the post-war period a major task of ILO has been the adoption of standards in the field of employer-employee relations, involving difficult but important subjects such as freedom of association, the right to organize and bargain collectively, and the question of forced labour.