

governments, employers and work people from the member states. The General Conference, which usually meets once a year, is the policy-making body, and the Governing Body of 40 members, which usually meets three times a year, is the executive organ. Canada occupies one of the ten seats on the Governing Body reserved for the governments of the ten "states of chief industrial importance". The International Labour Office in Geneva is the permanent secretariat of the ILO.

The ILO's chief method of setting standards for conditions of work throughout the world is the adoption of Conventions and Recommendations. Member states which ratify an ILO Convention are obliged to bring their labour standards into line with its provisions. Recommendations do not require to be ratified but governments are obliged to bring them to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

The 37th General Conference of the ILO, which met at Geneva in June of 1954, adopted a Recommendation, the 98th since the Organization began, on Holidays with Pay. The Canadian Government and worker delegates voted for it and the Canadian employer delegate against. No new Conventions were adopted in the past year, but the 37th Conference carried out its usual function of reviewing the annual reports that governments are required to submit on the way they are applying the existing Conventions. There are now 103 ILO Conventions in existence, of which Canada has ratified 18.

The 37th Conference decided to initiate studies on the possibility of action on a reduction in working hours. Three other questions were given preliminary discussion and referred to next year's Conference for possible adoption of Recommendations. They were on vocational rehabilitation of the disabled, penal sanctions for breaches of contract of employment and the conditions of migrant workers in under-developed countries.

There was a general discussion at the 37th Conference on Technical Assistance, based on a report by the Director-General on the ILO's work in this field. The ILO has played an increasingly important role in recent years in assisting under-developed countries in such matters as vocational training, industrial relations and social security.

One of the most important developments in the ILO in the past year was the revival of membership by the countries of the Soviet bloc. The U.S.S.R., which was a member of the ILO in the 1930's but did not resume membership after the Second World War, gave formal notice on April 26 that it was accepting the obligations of the ILO constitution. The constitution provides that states which are members of the United Nations have a right to membership of the ILO if they accept the obligations of such membership. Byelorussia and the Ukraine also joined within a few days of the U.S.S.R. Roumania has applied for membership but as it is neither a member of the United Nations nor a former member of the ILO its application requires the approval of a two-thirds vote of the General Conference. The application did not come to a vote at the 37th Conference. Hungary and Bulgaria, which have been inactive members in recent