

professional associations for their information; and ECOSOC discussed again the draft Convention on Freedom of Information which has been studied in the Council and the General Assembly since 1948. While some members of the Council thought that a positive recommendation for future action on the draft Convention should be made by the Council, the majority concluded that further action just now would be unprofitable; therefore ECOSOC finally recommended that the General Assembly consider the draft Convention at its twelfth session in 1957 in the hope that conditions would be more favourable then. ECOSOC asked the governments of member states and of non-member states which belong to the Specialized Agencies to inform the Secretary-General of information media in their territories, of existing measures and plans for the development of these media, and of any difficulties which they encountered in implementing such plans. The Council then asked the Secretary-General to make an analysis of the information and recommendations received from governments, since this would help the Council to draw up a programme of action for the development of information enterprises of under-developed countries. The Council studied the need for more information about the work of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies and expressed the belief that a further development of United Nations Information Centres could contribute to the enlightenment of public opinion in all countries. The Council requested the Secretary-General to examine this problem and to present a report with his recommendations to the Council's session in April 1956.

The General Assembly in 1955 did not discuss in detail any of the specific proposals made by the Economic and Social Council on this subject of freedom of information, though the Assembly did give support to the Council's recommendations for a programme of technical assistance in the field of freedom of information by adopting a resolution calling for a programme of "Advisory Services in the Field of Human Rights". The resolution approving this programme included a proviso suggested by the Canadian Delegation, that ECOSOC should submit to the General Assembly at its 1958 session an evaluation of the projects carried out under this programme of advisory services, together with recommendations concerning the future of the programme.

The question of freedom of information will again be examined at the twenty-first session of ECOSOC in April 1956, when the Council will continue its study of all aspects of this complex problem, and will consider a report by the Secretary-General on developments under Council resolution 574A¹.

Self-Determination of Peoples and Nations

In 1954, at its eighteenth session, the Economic and Social Council examined two draft resolutions on "self-determination" submitted to it by the Commission on Human Rights², and decided to return them to the Commission for reconsideration in the light of the Council's discussions. The first resolution recommended the establishment of a special commission "to conduct a survey of the status of the permanent sovereignty of peoples and nations over their natural wealth and resources", describing it as a "basic constituent of the right of self-determination"; the other resolution recommended the establishment of a second commission which would "examine any situation resulting from alleged denial or inadequate realization of the right of self-determination" and would also "provide its good offices for the peaceful rectification of any situation it is required to examine".

¹See above, p. 54.

²See *Canada and the United Nations 1953-54*, pp. 49-50.