

existence of the principle or right of self-determination, rather than concentrating on the problem of applying this principle. Therefore the United States Delegation presented an amendment to Resolution III, by which the terms of reference of the *ad hoc* commission would be revised accordingly. The commission was to include in its study an examination of "the means, within the framework of the United Nations Charter, of promoting conditions favourable to the attainment of self-determination by peoples desiring it". This study might also include "recommendations of a general character". This amendment was, however, subjected to the same criticisms as the original ECOSOC resolution. The United States Delegation, seeing that their amendment had failed to win general support, therefore withdrew it.

In the votes on the three resolutions before the Committee, Resolution III (in its original form) was defeated, with the Canadian Delegation abstaining. The Committee then adopted Resolution I (on the economic aspects of self-determination), while leaving to the General Assembly the important question of the precise composition of this commission. It then adopted a proposal to postpone discussion of Resolution II until the fourteenth session of the General Assembly. The Canadian Delegation voted against Resolution I, and supported the postponement of Resolution II.

When the report of the Third Committee on this item was discussed in plenary, the Assembly agreed to a suggestion by the President of the Assembly that the commission should be composed of nine government representatives, chosen by himself on the basis of geographical distribution, and that it should report to the 29th session of ECOSOC. He then appointed the following nine states to be members: Afghanistan, Chile, Guatemala, Netherlands, Philippines, Sweden, U.S.S.R., United Arab Republic and United States. Resolution 1, as amended, was then adopted by the General Assembly.

Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council

Introduction

The eight functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council were set up to assist the Council in its work in technical and specialized fields. The Commissions do not always meet annually, and only those that held meetings during the past year are discussed in the following sections. Of the remaining, the Population Commission conducts studies and surveys in the field of demographic problems; the Social Commission advises and co-ordinates the activities of the Council in such matters as child welfare, crime prevention, care of the aged and handicapped, and other questions related to social welfare generally; the Transport and Communications Commission assists the Council in dealing with problems relating to transportation which are not the responsibility of a Specialized Agency.

Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women has dealt since its establishment in 1946 with a variety of questions relating to women's rights, especially political and economic rights and opportunities, access to education and property, and social equality. The Commission held its twelfth session in Geneva from March 17 to April 3, 1958. Canada, which was serving the first year of a three-year term on this Commission, was represented by