

of the press offered by censorship, and contained documented references to the state of press freedom in many parts of the world. Speaking before the Council on April 9, 1954, Mr. Lopez affirmed that "free exchange of information and ideas between peoples is at least as necessary a condition of peace as is the exchange of material goods between them". The Council adopted in all 12 resolutions on freedom of information, many of them following upon recommendations made in the reports. They cover almost every aspect of the gathering and international transmission of news and in addition to suggesting that the Secretary-General or the appropriate Specialized Agencies undertake various studies, they urged upon governments co-operation in such matters as facilitating the transmission of outgoing news despatches; offering extended opportunities for professional training in the use of information media; implementing measures to facilitate the work of foreign correspondents and endeavouring to reach agreement on the equitable international allocation of radio frequencies. Governments were also urged to adhere to the International Copyright Convention. A resolution on the encouragement and development of independent domestic information enterprises, among other things drew the attention of governments of the under-developed countries to the possibility of seeking technical assistance for this purpose; recommended that UNESCO increase its aid to such governments; and reminded the United Nations and Specialized Agencies of the desirability of continuing to give due prominence to information about countries whose domestic information enterprises cannot reach a foreign public. The twelfth resolution, on production and distribution of newsprint and printing paper, recommended that the Food and Agriculture Organization continue to pay due attention to requests by governments for services and advice on pulp and newsprint and that the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies particularly concerned continue to co-operate in seeking new measures to deal with the newsprint problem. These recommendations will appear in the Council's report and may be debated at the ninth session of the General Assembly. Since Canada is not at present a member of ECOSOC, there was no official statement of Canadian views on the various aspects of freedom of information which were considered at the Council's seventeenth session.

## Human Rights

One purpose of the United Nations, as expressed in the Charter, is "to achieve international co-operation . . . in providing and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all". To aid in the fulfilment of this objective, the Economic and Social Council early in 1946 established a Commission on Human Rights and, the General Assembly having decided in 1947 that an International Bill of Human Rights should be drawn up, the task of preparing it was assigned to the Commission.<sup>1</sup> The first step of the work was completed when the General Assembly on December 10, 1948, unanimously adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since then, the more difficult task of drafting a multilateral

<sup>1</sup>See *Canada and the United Nations 1952-53*, pp. 53-54.