

*By Mr. Fraser:*

Q. I would just like to ask Mr. Heeney whether that is a reduction from a year ago?—A. I have not got that figure but I could get the information for you. My impression is that it is a reduction because most of these services were reduced a bit last year.

Q. I understood you to say that the printing has been considerably cut?—A. We were then talking about the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa.

Q. But I thought you said the United Nations also?—A. No, that had reference purely to our own department.

The CHAIRMAN: I hear the division bell and we will have to postpone matters for a few minutes.

On returning from the House:

The CHAIRMAN: We will now resume. Are there any more questions, Mr. Fraser?

Mr. FRASER: No, I was asking about a reduction in the United Nations literature.

The WITNESS: I replied that my impression was that this is rather less than last year, but I would have to check that.

The other day Mr. Coldwell asked a number of questions concerning refugees and stateless persons. Perhaps in his absence I might put this on the record. The answers are rather lengthy and perhaps that would serve Mr. Coldwell's and the committee's purpose.

The CHAIRMAN: Would that be satisfactory?

Agreed.

The WITNESS: One statement had to do with the United Nations conference of plenipotentiaries on the status of refugees and stateless persons.

During its Fifth Session, the General Assembly decided to convene, in Geneva, a conference of plenipotentiaries to complete the drafting of and to sign both the convention relating to the status of refugees and the protocol relating to the status of stateless persons. This conference will take place in Geneva commencing July 2. The head of the consular division, will be the Canadian representative and he will be assisted by an officer from the Canadian permanent delegation in Geneva.

2. The convention which this Conference will consider was drafted in the first instance by an ad hoc committee of the economic and social council. This committee held its first session at Lake Success in January and February 1950 under the chairmanship of Mr. Chance. It held its second session in Geneva in August 1950 and reported to the Fifth Session of the General Assembly. The economic and social council, at its summer session in 1950, only discussed the clause determining what categories of refugees would come under the scope of the convention. The General Assembly also discussed this definition clause and recommended a compromise definition for the consideration of the Conference. The other clauses of the convention were not considered by the Assembly.

3. The refugee convention was designed to guarantee to refugees the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms without discrimination. The purpose of the protocol of stateless persons is to extend the rights covered by the convention to persons who are stateless, but who are not refugees. The draft convention, as it now stands, covers a considerable number of rights which will be extended to refugees by those countries which decide to adhere to it. There are general articles such as the one on discrimination which states that no contracting state shall discriminate against a refugee within its territory on account of his race, religion, or country