

Accordingly, Canada agreed to co-sponsor a seven-power draft resolution along these lines which had been worked out mainly by the United States and United Kingdom. This resolution provided for a decision in principle, by the General Assembly, that a Charter Review Conference "shall be held" but it also provided for the appointment of a committee to consider, in consultation with the Secretary-General, the question of fixing a time and place for the conference and its organization and procedures. By giving the committee two years to study the question before reporting to the twelfth session, the resolution provided for a lapse of time during which Canada and others hope there will develop an atmosphere more congenial to the holding of a successful conference.

The original proposal called for the establishment of an 18-member committee to study the question but, after some discussion, it was decided that a committee consisting of all members of the United Nations would best meet the situation and the resolution was amended accordingly. In this form, the resolution was approved by a large majority even though the Soviet Union and other communist members opposed it and announced that their delegations could not take part in the work of the committee or in any action aimed at revising the Charter.

### The Problem of Prisoners of War

The United Nations *Ad Hoc* Commission on Prisoners of War has continued its quiet and useful role of co-ordination and documentation. It was established in 1950 by the General Assembly to determine whether there was reasonable ground for believing that prisoners captured during the Second World War had not been returned or otherwise accounted for, and it was renewed in 1953 by the ninth session of the General Assembly, which appealed to all governments and authorities for their co-operation<sup>1</sup>.

The Commission held its fifth and sixth sessions in 1954, and on September 30, 1954 published a report on progress in repatriation and accounting for prisoners of war. Information received since its previous report showed that the majority of the detaining powers had in the meantime released and repatriated the prisoners of war in their custody, while others had released a large number of civilian and military prisoners; and that the various Red Cross organizations and societies through their continued co-operation with one another, with the governments concerned, or with the Commission, had met with considerable success in improving the lot of prisoners of war and in clarifying the fate of thousands of missing prisoners. Between May 1950, when the Soviet news agencies announced that the repatriation of German prisoners of war had been completed, and September 1953, 1,496 German nationals were reported to have been repatriated to their homes from the U.S.S.R.; and between September 1953 and June 1954, an additional 10,794, of whom 9,029 were prisoners of war and 1,765 civilian prisoners. Some 1,500 German nationals had also been repatriated from Hungary, Poland, France, Denmark, Norway, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia. Through the co-operation of the Chinese and Japanese Red Cross Societies, 26,544 persons (including 95 non-Japanese nationals) were released by the Chinese Government between March 1953 and August 1954 and, as a result of negotiations between the Japanese Red Cross Society and the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Soviet Union, some 1,230 Japanese nationals (civilians and military) were repatriated from the U.S.S.R. No progress was made in the repatriation of Japanese from North Korea and Outer Mongolia.

<sup>1</sup>See *Canada and the United Nations 1953-54*, pp. 34-35.