

The most important immediate project is the World Population Conference, now scheduled for September 1954, which is to be a gathering of about 400 experts in demographic statistics who will meet to discuss eight principal topics of importance in this field. Commenting upon the provisional agenda, the Commission recorded its view that the Conference should concentrate upon those topics of chief importance and not extend too far into peripheral and speculative studies.

The Commission reported encouraging progress in the task of increasing the availability of demographic statistics and improving their accuracy and comparability. It recommended that governments which have recently taken censuses be asked to prepare analytical studies devoted to topics of most importance in their programmes of economic and social development. It examined the report prepared by the Secretariat entitled "Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends" and recommended that the attention of governments be drawn to the importance of considering, in the development of economic and social programmes aimed at raising the standard of living of their peoples, the interrelationships between population changes and economic and social changes. Finally, it recommended that, considering the importance of internal migration, especially in underdeveloped countries, governments give special attention to improving this branch of statistical information.

All the recommendations were adopted by ECOSOC, which commended the Commission's decision to concentrate on these subjects.

## **Transport and Communications Commission**

The sixth session of the Transport and Communications Commission met in New York February 2-11, 1953. It adopted seven substantive resolutions, all of which were adopted by the fifteenth session of ECOSOC. They instructed the Secretary-General to take various steps to initiate or to pursue studies regarding the pollution of sea-water; the establishing of an international system of classifying and marking dangerous goods shipped in international trade; the possibility of developing uniform national requirements for, and methods of, determining the mental and physical fitness of applicants for driving permits; and eliminating discrimination between different insurance markets in the placing of transport insurance. This last resolution also recommended that governments consider the feasibility of including a clause in all future commercial agreements intended to check such discrimination. Three other resolutions requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to secure the entry into force of the Convention on the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization; to open for signature the protocol on a Uniform System of Road Signs and Signals which was approved by the Commission at its sixth session; and to convene in 1954 a conference of governments for the conclusion of two conventions relating to customs formalities for the temporary importation of private vehicles and for tourism.