

Commission and the Status of Women Commission, had in establishing their work programmes on a sound and practical basis.

The distinguished representative of France who sits in this committee, who is a veteran of seven years service with the Social Commission and who was Chairman of the Temporary Social Commission in 1946 before the Permanent Commission was established, will, I am sure, be able to corroborate what I have said from his own rich personal experience so far as the Social Commission is concerned. The early reports of the Social Commission and of the Commission on the Status of Women encountered much more difficulty, and stirred up much more controversial debate in the course of their passage through ECOSOC and the Assembly than they do now. Canada has been represented on the Social Commission for seven years ever since it was first established. Through your own personal service on that Commission over a four year period, and later through the service of our present representative, Mr. Curry, who this year presided as Chairman of the Commission, the Canadian Delegation has been able to follow at close range the evolution of the Social Commission from a loosely-knit, badly-organized, inefficiently -functioning unit, to a quietly effective organ, self-disciplined and in control of its work programme, whose operations now reflect considerable credit on the United Nations. As Canada comes to the end of its seventh year of service on the Commission, and retires temporarily from membership, the Canadian Delegation is glad to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the way in which the Social Commission has "come of age" and gained both maturity and prestige: at the same time, we would wish to include in this expression of appreciation the very effective work which has been carried on by the Secretariat under the capable direction of Miss Julia Henderson in support of the Commission's activities.

What I have said about the work of the Social Commission applies also with equal force to the Narcotics, the Population, and Status of Women Commissions. Mention has already been made in an earlier debate of the work of the Status of Women Commission: consequently I do not intend to discuss it again in any detail, and we shall have an opportunity to comment on the work of the Population Commission when the resolution put forward in the names of the delegations of Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico and Peru, contained in Document A/C.3/L.363/Rev. 1 is considered at a later stage in this debate.

I would, however, like to draw attention very briefly to the important work accomplished during this past year in the field of narcotics control. The successful outcome of the United Nations Opium Conference, held at the Headquarters here in May and June of this year, and attended by representatives of 41 States, marks a very important forward step in this field. The fact that 34 States signed the Final Act of the Conference, and that subsequently 20 States signed the Protocol adopted at the Conference, which limits and regulates the Cultivation of the Poppy Plant, and Production of The International and Wholesale Trade in, and the use of, Opium, constitutes the best possible proof of the progress that has been made. My own government hopes to establish its own position with respect to the ratification of this Protocol in the near future.