

# ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

For the first time in its history the Economic and Social Council convened in Geneva on July 19. The agenda was crowded with fifty items. Five of these were immediately deleted on the recommendation of the Agenda Committee and five were removed later in the Session by the Council. Four main committees (a) economic (b) social (c) human rights and (d) coordination, were established to deal with the various items and in addition the Committee on Negotiations with specialized Agencies met to review the draft agreements between the United Nations and the International Refugee Organization and the International Maritime Consultative Organization.

Unfortunately the Session was terminated on August 28 before adequate consideration could be given to all the items remaining on the agenda. Much of the time and energy of the delegates was devoted to a discussion of basic questions concerning the Council's functions, purposes and meaning. Many of the delegates felt that the Council was being diverted from its original purposes to become another political meeting ground.

## ECONOMIC QUESTIONS

The work of the three regional economic commissions was considered and definite lines of action were recommended. The majority of the delegates including the Canadian, held the view that the Economic Commission for Europe had been one of the most successful of the Council's subsidiary organs. The report of E.C.E. was noted with satisfaction and a resolution was adopted empowering the Commission to set up appropriate bodies in the fields of Industrial Development and foreign trade. The Report of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East was noted; resolutions

were adopted concerning Industrial development and trade and the Council decided to recommend the establishment of a Bureau of Flood Control. Canada supported these recommendations. The Council by a large majority approved the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America despite the criticism levelled at it by the U.S.S.R.

## EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Criticism was directed at the work of the Economic and Employment Commission. The recommendations it had made to the Council were considered to be ineffective and ambiguous. It was agreed that the Council in the future should examine the work of the Commission and its Sub-commissions with a view to determining the most effective way in which it might fulfil the purposes intended.

The chief recommendation adopted on the Report of the Transport and Communications Commission was the provision to convene a world conference next year to conclude a new world-wide convention on road and motor transport to replace the world conventions of 1926 and 1931.

The Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment was noted with satisfaction.

The Report of the Statistical Commission was noted and four resolutions were adopted which incorporated the proposals contained in the Report.

## SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

In general, serious discussion did not develop when the reports were discussed. The Council expressed its appreciation of the work of World Health Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Labour Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organ-

ization. In the case of I.C.A.O. a Canadian resolution was adopted which noted with satisfaction the measures taken by I.C.A.O. to amend its constitution eliminating Spain from its meetings and recommending that I.C.A.O. member states who have not yet deposited their instruments of ratification do so as soon as possible. Reports were received from the International Bank, International Monetary Fund, Food and Agricultural Organization, Universal Postal Union, International Telecommunications Union. The Council took note of these Reports. The two draft agreements between the United Nations and the International Maritime Consultative Organization and the international Refugee Organization were approved by the Council with Canadian support.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

Progress in the Committee of the Council dealing with these matters was very slow. Of the six major items in this field only the question of the status of women and one of the three conventions on freedom of information were thoroughly discussed. A resolution was adopted condemning legislative barriers to marriage on grounds of colour, race, nationality or religion, including a clause which condemned laws or administrative restrictions preventing a woman from leaving her country to join her husband in another land. The Council also recommended the mobilization of world opinion in favour of equality between men and women's educational rights and the removal of discriminatory economic and social practices. All documents on freedom of information were referred to the General Assembly without recommendation.

Genocide and the declaration on human rights were discussed but were dismissed with