

for the *ipso facto* adherence to the Convention of all non-metropolitan territories for which the signatory had responsibility in international relations, but, with respect to non-metropolitan areas whose previous consent is required by the constitutional laws of the signatory or of the non-metropolitan state, it was agreed that the signing country concerned should endeavour to secure the needed consent within twelve months from the date of signature.

The Supplementary Convention finally adopted by the Conference contained the following substantive provisions:

- (1) States Parties to the Convention shall take all "practicable and necessary legislative and other measures to bring about progressively and as soon as possible" an end to such practices as debt bondage, serfdom, forced marriage, and the exploitation of adopted or quasi-adopted children;
- (2) Ratifying countries shall prescribe, where appropriate, minimum ages for marriage;
- (3) Conveying or attempting to convey slaves from one country to another shall be made a criminal offence;
- (4) Any slave taking refuge on board any vessel of a State Party to the Convention shall *ipso facto* be set free;
- (5) Branding, mutilation, and the act of enslaving another person, or of inducing another person to give himself or a person dependent upon him into slavery, shall be made criminal offences;
- (6) Disputes relating to the interpretation or application of the Convention, not settled by negotiation, shall be referred to the International Court of Justice at the request of any one of the parties to the dispute.

On September 7, 1956 the Supplementary Convention was signed by plenipotentiaries representing 30 countries, including Canada. Mr. R. H. Jay, of the Canadian Permanent Mission to the European Office of the United Nations, who was Canadian Representative at the Conference, signed for Canada.

Draft Covenants on Human Rights

Following the adoption by the General Assembly in 1948 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹ the Commission on Human Rights, acting on the instructions of the Economic and Social Council, commenced work on an international Covenant on Human Rights. Subsequently the General Assembly, at its sixth session in 1951, decided that the proposed instrument should take the form of two international covenants, one dealing with civil and political rights, the other with economic, social and cultural rights. On completion of this work in 1954 the Human Rights Commission presented drafts of the two covenants to ECOSOC which transmitted them to the General Assembly without taking any decision concerning their substance.

At its ninth session in 1954 the General Assembly undertook a first reading of the two draft covenants, consisting of a general discussion followed by the presentation of new proposals and amendments, none of which was voted on. In 1955, at its tenth session, the General Assembly began a

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1948*, pp. 90-91.