

of opinion along political lines as to what organizations should be accorded the privilege of consultative status and also as to how far security requirements of the host country should restrict the access to headquarters of accredited representatives of NGOs. Substantively, the views presented by some organizations on such matters as infringements of trade union rights, slavery, forced labour, the international flow of private capital and so on, have been coloured by their political affiliations.

A review of organizations with Category B status was undertaken during the past year and the Council debates on the subject reflected these political tensions. Category B status was withdrawn from the Women's International Democratic Federation on a vote of 10 in favour, 3 against and 5 abstentions. Delegations favouring withdrawal of status, which included the United States and the United Kingdom, stated that the WIDF had cynically exploited women for ulterior political purposes and, far from supporting the United Nations, had used the whole weight of its propaganda machine to oppose action taken in accordance with General Assembly decisions. Delegations of the Soviet bloc opposed withdrawal, those of Egypt, India and Yugoslavia questioned the propriety of the action, partly on the grounds that the United Nations was an association of states with differing ideologies. Similar considerations arose in the deferment to 1955 of action on the reapplication for Category B status of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and the International Organization of Journalists, and the reclassification from the Register to Category B of the International Federation of Senior Police Officers and the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

A working agreement regarding the grant of United States visas for representatives of NGOs has been reached by the Secretary-General and the United States. It will more closely define the cases in which the United States will invoke security considerations and will facilitate early consultations at a high level before a visa has actually been refused and the question has become a matter of public controversy.

## Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council

Of the eight functional commissions now in existence only four met during the period July 1, 1953 to June 30, 1954.<sup>1</sup> Canada is at present a member of the Statistical and Fiscal Commissions (until December 31, 1955), the Population Commission (until December 31, 1956), and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (indefinite term).

The re-organization of the functional commissions and their pattern of meetings adopted experimentally by the Economic and Social Council in 1951 will be reviewed at the eighteenth session of the Council.<sup>2</sup> Under the present plan, several times modified since 1951, the Fiscal, Population, Social, and Transport and Communica-

<sup>1</sup>For the work of the tenth session of the Commission on Human Rights see the article "Human Rights" above pp. 46-48.

<sup>2</sup>See *Canada and the United Nations 1951-52*, pp. 80-83.