

Economic and Social Councils. This debate, in which the Canadian Delegation took a leading part, involved a consideration of possible alterations in the composition of the Councils, in order to take account of the shift in the balance of membership in the United Nations in favour of the newer members from Asia and Africa. Canada strongly favoured proposals to provide for greater Asian and African representation through an expansion of the membership of the Councils. The Soviet bloc was opposed, arguing that no changes should be made until the question of the representation of Communist China was settled. A number of the African and Asian countries were prepared to seek a solution along the lines of a reallocation of existing seats rather than an increase in the number of seats. This would, of course, have had the effect of reducing Latin American and Western European representation. Despite the efforts of the Canadian Delegation and others to produce a satisfactory compromise formula, no single solution recommended itself to the required majority of members. The debate in Committee ended inconclusively, and the elections to seats on the Councils were complicated as a result.

Economic Committee

Of interest to Canadians was the adoption by the Assembly's Second (Economic) Committee of a resolution embodying the idea put forward by Prime Minister Diefenbaker in his speech to the General Assembly on September 26, when he proposed the setting up of a world "food bank". The resolution called for a study of the mobilization of available surplus foodstuffs and their distribution in areas of greatest need.

The Economic Committee also endorsed the Prime Minister's "experts' bank" proposal, and continued in being, on an expanded and regular basis, the experimental OPEX programme, by which the United Nations had recruited operational and executive personnel at the request of governments (especially of the newly-emergent states) needing assistance in the setting up and running of the various departments and agencies of the state. The Second Committee was one that succeeded in completing its work by the time of the recess.

Social Committee

One of the tasks of the Assembly's Third (Social and Humanitarian) Committee was to evaluate the success of World Refugee Year. Apart from a substantial contribution of flour to the Palestine Refugee Agency, the Canadian Government, as its contribution to WRY, admitted over 200 tubercular refugees and their families. The possibility of additional admissions is being explored. The great continuing task of this Committee is the drafting of the Articles of the Covenants on Human Rights. Canada, with its own Bill of Rights so recently placed on the statute books, played an active part in the drafting, laying particular stress on the position of federal states with their constitutional division of powers.