

One project promoted during the past year is a camp adoption scheme by which communities or organizations agree to take a continuing interest in a particular camp. The United Nations Refugee Emergency Fund having been exhausted by the end of 1953, the High Commissioner again appealed for contributions. Canada is contributing in 1954 a further \$50,000 for the relief of the refugees in China (the largest single charge on the Fund), and \$50,000 to the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration for re-settlement.

An important step in international action for the protection of refugees, which is one of the major concerns of the High Commissioner, was the coming into force of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. This Convention, which was signed at Geneva in 1951, needed six ratifications or accessions to enter into force. The deposit of an instrument of accession by Australia, the sixth state to ratify or accede to the Convention, brought it into force on April 22, 1954. It establishes minimum rights for refugees as regards wage-earning, employment, education, public relief and religion, and sets forth a procedure for the issuance of travel documents. In Canada, the Convention is receiving study in the light of existing legislation and the division of responsibility between federal and provincial governments.

Statelessness

The United Nations Conference held at Geneva in July 1951 which drew up the Convention on the Status of Refugees¹ also had before it a Draft Protocol on the Status of Stateless Persons, intended to apply the provisions of the Convention on Refugees to stateless persons. The Conference decided, however, that the Draft Protocol required further study and took no action on it.

In accordance with a recommendation made by the Economic and Social Council at its seventeenth session, that a new conference of plenipotentiaries to revise the Draft Protocol should be convened, the Secretary-General of the United Nations is canvassing the governments represented at Geneva in 1951 on the possibility of holding a new conference in September 1954.

Meanwhile, at its fifth session in 1953, the International Law Commission completed work on a Draft Convention on the Elimination of Future Statelessness and another on the Reduction of Future Statelessness and submitted them to member governments for comment.

The Canadian Government has stated that, with some modifications, the Draft Convention on the Reduction of Future Statelessness would more nearly coincide with existing Canadian law and policy than the Draft Convention on the Elimination of Future Statelessness. The latter Convention, for example, would prohibit deprivation of nationality by way of penalty where statelessness would result, whereas the Canadian view is that there exist certain cases of disloyalty in which deprivation of citizenship is justified.

¹See "Refugees" above pp. 52-53.