

of the real resources of any country in accordance with the highest priority for their use. The Fund considered, however, that supplementary reserves should be supplied quickly in response to need, on liberal terms and in adequate amounts. The Council noted with appreciation this statement of policy, and the importance of the question of monetary reserves in discussing full employment and requested the Fund to keep the matter under study and report again in 1954.

The seventeenth session of the Council in April 1954 postponed consideration of full employment to the eighteenth session, when it will be combined with the debate on the world economic situation.

Social Questions

Freedom of Information

Various organs of the United Nations have devoted considerable time to discussing ways of protecting and encouraging freedom of information ever since 1946, when the first session of the General Assembly approved a Philippine proposal to hold a conference on the subject. These discussions have shown that the problem of safeguarding free speech is complex, and that in the modern world there is no simple, universal formula to solve it once and for all.¹

Freedom of information was not dealt with at the sixteenth session of the Economic and Social Council in June-July 1953. The eighth session of the General Assembly, however, considered the subject and adopted a two-part resolution by a vote of 53 in favour (including Canada) none against and 6 abstentions. The first part asked ECOSOC to give priority to consideration of the subject at its seventeenth session, and requested the Secretary-General to complete in time for that session the report on a programme of concrete action for the development of information facilities in under-developed regions of the world called for by General Assembly Resolution 633 (VII) of December 16, 1952. The second part invited the Secretary-General to ask those information enterprises and national and international professional associations which have not yet replied to his previous inquiry to submit their views on the organizing of an international conference to prepare the final text of an International Code of Ethics for the use of information personnel. Provided a representative group of them expressed a desire to do so, he was to co-operate with this group in organizing such a conference. The Canadian Representative voted for this part of the resolution after it had been amended to make clear that the initiative for calling the conference would remain with the profession itself, since the Canadian view is that the formulation of such a code is not primarily a matter for governments to decide.

The seventeenth session of ECOSOC in April 1954 considered the original report of the special Rapporteur on Freedom of Information, Mr. Salvador P. Lopez of the Philippines, which had been submitted in May 1953, and also a supplementary report bringing the first up to date. This latter report quoted surveys undertaken by Press Associations which stressed the serious menace to freedom

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1952-53*, pp. 39-41.