

refusal of United States visas to Mrs. Rae Luckock of Canada, representative of the WIDF, and Mr. Jan Dessau, representative of the World Federation of Trade Unions. Mrs. Luckock had, earlier in 1953, been prevented by lack of a visa from attending the session of the Commission on the Status of Women as a representative of the WIDF and the Commission had adopted a resolution of protest. At the fifteenth session of the Council, the United States Representative stated that the action had been taken on security grounds, but that the United States Government would co-operate with the Secretary-General in whatever negotiations he wished to arrange. The outcome of these negotiations was not known by the end of the fifteenth session and the Council decided to ask the Secretary-General for a report on them at its sixteenth session.

Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council

There are now eight functional Commissions: the Population, Transport and Communications, Statistical, Status of Women, Narcotic Drugs, Fiscal, Human Rights, and Social. There is a rotating membership (except that by an established tradition the five great powers are always represented) and at its summer session each year the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) elects the states which are to be entitled to nominate individuals to the vacant seats. Canada is at present (June 30, 1953) a member of the Statistical and Fiscal Commissions (until December 31, 1955), and the Social Commission (until December 31, 1953). Within the framework of ECOSOC the Commissions were intended to be bodies of experts, working in their individual capacities, who would supervise studies and draw up recommendations based on more informed and intensive examination than the Council could be expected to devote to each individual problem. The original conception of a body of independent experts has not been entirely realized in the work of the Commissions, which, particularly in the less technical fields, have often tended to repeat the patterns of debate familiar in the principal organs of the United Nations. But a somewhat revised plan of work has been in operation since 1951 and it is to be hoped will help to eliminate overlapping and establish priorities in the tasks attempted.¹

Population Commission

The Population Commission held its seventh session in New York January 19-30, 1953. After examining and discussing the various current studies and projects in the field of vital statistics as they illustrate community life (demographic statistics), it made reports or recommendations upon them to the fifteenth session of ECOSOC.

¹For a fuller account see *Canada and the United Nations 1951-52*, pp. 80-89.