

Ratifications of the convention setting up IMCO have been coming in slowly and ECOSOC in July 1953 asked the 14 governments which had already accepted to consider how ratifications could be speeded up.<sup>1</sup> At the initiative of the United Kingdom Government, these 14 governments (including Canada) attended a conference in London October 27-28, 1953, and agreed to take appropriate action. Diplomatic representations have been made to a number of countries as a result. Since the conference, Egypt has ratified the Convention. Six more ratifications or acceptances will be required before IMCO can be established. At its seventeenth session ECOSOC requested the 14 countries to continue their efforts.

Acting upon a recommendation made by the Transport and Communications Commission, ECOSOC, by Resolution 468 F (XV), instructed the Secretary-General to convene a conference of governments to conclude two conventions relating to customs formalities for the temporary importation of private road motor vehicles and for tourism (i.e. the personal effects of tourists travelling by any means of transport). This conference met in New York May 11 - June 4, 1954; 50 states (including Canada) were represented, but in accordance with their previous attitude towards this project the governments of the Soviet bloc did not attend. The conference adopted and opened for signature the following instruments: a Convention concerning Customs Facilities for Touring; a Protocol to the above relating to the Importation of Tourist Publicity Documents and Material; a Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Motor Vehicles.

## Non-Governmental Organizations

In accordance with Article 71 of the Charter, the Economic and Social Council has established consultative relations with a large number of non-governmental organizations, which can furnish expert information within their fields of competence as requested by the Council or, in certain circumstances, volunteer statements of their views on specific questions. The organizations are classified in three categories. Those in Categories A and B have the right to submit written statements for circulation and may present their views orally. The nine organizations in Category A may also propose items directly for inclusion in the agenda of the functional and regional commissions or through the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations for the agenda of the Council itself. In addition, the Secretary-General maintains a register of organizations which are specialized in a narrow field and with which *ad hoc* consultation may sometimes be desirable. The Council Committee on NGOs, which is composed of seven members of ECOSOC elected yearly, considers and makes recommendations upon requests for hearings and applications for reclassification or admission to consultative status.<sup>2</sup>

Both procedurally and substantively, the arrangements for consultation with NGOs have been affected by the prevailing conflicts in international relations. Procedurally, there have been differences

<sup>1</sup>See *Canada and the United Nations 1951-52*, p. 106.

<sup>2</sup>See *Canada and the United Nations 1952-53*, pp. 48-49.