

ary to tender advice to the Indian Government on its family-planning programme – the first project of this nature undertaken by the United Nations. Some delegations expressed reservations about the possibility of the United Nations becoming directly involved in the field of family planning, even if at the request of member states. After considerable discussion on this subject, the Commission noted in its report that, while the United Nations should refrain from espousing any particular population policy, a distinction should be made between “propaganda” and “information” in the provision of assistance to member states engaged in family-planning programmes.<sup>1</sup> Canada was not a member of the Population Commission in 1965.

### *Social Commission*

The Social Commission held its sixteenth session in New York in May 1965. The Commission dealt with such subjects as rural and community development, social defence (prevention of crime and treatment of offenders), social development, social services, and housing, building and planning. It stressed the importance of rapid implementation of land-reform schemes and invited active participation in the World Land Reform Conference to be held in 1966. It recommended that more should be done by the United Nations in the social-defence field. Concerned with the problems attendant upon urbanization, the Commission called for the drafting of a programme of research and training in this field to develop proposals for their solution. The Commission also decided that in 1966 it should reappraise its own role in order that it could better meet the social needs of member states. In the social-service field, the Commission made a number of recommendations with respect to welfare-training programmes, unemployment amongst young people and the rehabilitation of the handicapped. Of particular significance was the recommendation to convene in 1968 or later a conference of social-welfare ministers to identify common elements in social welfare, to clarify and focus attention on the role of social welfare in national development, and to determine what resources are needed to meet social-welfare objectives. Canada served on the Social Commission from 1947 to 1953 and from 1961 to 1964.

### *Statistical Commission*

The Statistical Commission held its thirteenth session in New York in April and May 1965. As it had not met in three years, it had before it a full list of agenda items and adopted a number of resolutions. Amongst the more important was a recommendation that member states carry out population and housing censuses between 1965 and 1974 and that they take into account

<sup>1</sup>See Pages 27 and 64.