

that FAO had much experience in the subject and has had to deal with a number of proposals having the same general intent as those put forward by the Government of Costa Rica. FAO is now preparing the report which will be submitted to the Secretary-General in time for consideration by the Council at either its twenty-first or twenty-second session.

Social Questions

Slavery

Under the International Slavery Convention of 1926, which was ratified by Canada on August 6, 1928, the signatories undertook to suppress the slave trade and completely abolish slavery in all its forms. Slavery still continues however, and in October 1953 the General Assembly approved a Protocol transferring to the United Nations the functions exercised by the League of Nations under the 1926 Convention. Canada signed this Protocol on December 17, 1953.

A draft Supplementary Convention, based on the recommendations of the Secretary-General and those of an *Ad Hoc* Committee on Slavery established by the Economic and Social Council in 1949, which would extend the provisions of the 1926 Convention to include institutions and practices analogous to slavery, was circulated to governments for their comments in 1953. In January 1954, the Canadian Government replied that although it saw benefit in the proposal for a Supplementary Convention, it considered that effective action by the governments concerned was essential to eradicate such practices, and that requiring countries like Canada where slavery does not exist to implement the provisions of the proposed Supplementary Convention would serve no useful purpose. Moreover, in Canada, it would create constitutional difficulties arising out of the distribution of legislative power. It was suggested, therefore, that an article or clause should be included to ensure that the provisions concerning the enactment of legislation and the filing of annual returns should not be binding on countries in which slavery does not exist or, alternatively, that such countries should be permitted to make a reservation concerning these provisions. Failing either of these alternatives the Canadian Government would find it difficult to participate in a Supplementary Convention along the lines proposed.

At the seventeenth session of ECOSOC in April 1954, governments and the International Labour Organization were asked to comment on another Supplementary Convention prepared by the United Kingdom. As this proposed Convention is similar to that of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Slavery, the observations on it by the Canadian Government recapitulated the views expressed previously. At its nineteenth session in April 1955, ECOSOC appointed a committee of ten members to prepare a draft Supplementary Convention for submission to the twenty-first session of ECOSOC in April 1956, and transmitted the United Kingdom's draft Convention to this Committee together with the comments received from governments and from the International Labour Organization.

Forced Labour

In 1951 an *Ad Hoc* Committee on Forced Labour was set up under the joint auspices of the United Nations and the International Labour Organization. According to the Committee's report released in June 1953 there are two