

Canada was an active member of IRO until the Organization came to an end. The total number of persons settled in Canada under IRO auspices was 123,479, a figure only exceeded by the United States, Australia and Israel. Canadian contributions to IRO totalled more than \$(U.S.)18 million, the only larger contributors being the United States, the United Kingdom and France.

Although IRO has come to an end, many of the problems with which it was concerned continue to exist, for unstable political conditions in various parts of the world are creating new groups of refugees whose plight cannot be ignored. Nonetheless, IRO effort reduced the size and urgency of the refugee problem so greatly that it now seems possible for the tasks of IRO to be performed by other means. Thus the international protection of refugees has become the function of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and migration for re-settlement is being handled by governments through bilateral arrangements or other co-operative procedures.

### **International Trade Organization**

The Havana Charter for an International Trade Organization (ITO), which was signed in March 1948, has not yet entered into force. The President of the United States decided, in December 1950, not to submit the Charter to Congress for approval. It would probably be impractical and unrealistic to proceed with the establishment of ITO without United States participation. It is, in any case, unlikely that the major trading countries would be prepared to ratify the Charter in these circumstances.

In the absence of any definite prospect of United States ratification of the Charter, an increasing share of the functions which would have been exercised by ITO has been taken over by existing international organizations. This applies, for example, to the Charter provisions relating to commercial policy, employment, economic development and restrictive business practices.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is at present the major international instrument governing commercial relations between states. It has been signed by 34 countries accounting among them for approximately 85 per cent of world trade. GATT comprises the major trading nations of the world, outside the Soviet bloc; Czechoslovakia is its only Soviet bloc member. Within the limitations of its Protocol of Provisional Application, GATT binds its signatories to a set of rules and principles of commercial practice aimed at achieving a high level of multilateral trade on a non-discriminatory basis.

Under the auspices of GATT three separate rounds of international tariff negotiations have been successfully held since 1948. As a result of these negotiations tariffs have been substantially reduced on a wide range of commodities entering world trade. These tariff concessions, which benefit all the signatories of GATT, will remain in force at least until January 1, 1954.

While the Contracting Parties to GATT do not operate as part of the United Nations, they continue to avail themselves of the services of the Secretariat of the Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization.