

geographical origin of seized samples of opium can be determined by scientific methods¹.

Consideration was given to means for the more effective control of the illicit traffic in cannabis, heroin and coca leaf. The Commission also favoured the prohibition of the production and use of such synthetic narcotics as were not indispensable to public health; however, the Economic and Social Council later decided to take no action on this proposal pending further study of the question. The Commission gave priority to the continuing task of drafting a single convention providing for the international control of narcotic drugs.

World Calendar Reform

In 1954, at its eighteenth session, the Economic and Social Council discussed a communication from the Delegation of India advocating consideration of a plan for the reform of the Gregorian Calendar. Under this plan, proposed by the World Calendar Association, the whole world would adopt on January 1, 1956 a new, fixed, uniform and invariable calendar according to which days and dates always agree from year to year, holidays are permanently fixed and all statistics compiled on the basis of a month or a quarter are numerically comparable with one another.

After considering the matter, the Council requested the Secretary-General to invite the governments of members and non-members of the United Nations to furnish their views on calendar reform early in 1955 so that the matter could be considered again by the Council at its resumed nineteenth session. Before answering the Secretary-General's enquiry, the Canadian Government considered the representations made to it by a number of private groups within the country: some of these urged adoption of calendar reform; most of the others expressed opposition on religious grounds to any plan which annually breaks the continuity of the week and makes the Sabbath a movable day. Having taken into account both of these points of view the Canadian Government informed the Secretary-General that it had come to the conclusion that a study, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, of the possibilities of calendar reform might prove useful but did not wish at this time to support or commit itself to any specific reform.

Having received only 30 replies (most of them unfavourable to calendar reform) by the time of its nineteenth session, the Economic and Social Council decided to postpone consideration of the question until its twenty-first session.

Non-Governmental Organizations

During the past 18 months, the Economic and Social Council regularly reviewed its consultative relations with non-governmental organizations² which furnish expert information to the Council within their fields of competence.

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations met during the sessions of the Council to consider applications for consultative status, or applications for a revision of the type of status, and to hold hearings. Many organizations submitted written statements to the Council or its commissions, and some made statements before the Council on sessional agenda items. The Council granted consultative status in category B to the International Bar Association; the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage; the International Council for Building Research, Studies and Documentation; the

¹See *External Affairs*, Monthly Bulletin of the Department of External Affairs, November 1955, pp. 289-293.
²See Appendix III for a list of these organizations and an explanation of the categories of status.