

by a vote of 9 to 2 with 7 abstentions. The United Kingdom and French Representatives stated that they were unable to vote in favour because their Governments considered the Danube Convention of 1921 as still in force. The Representative of the U.S.S.R. voted against the inclusion of the Commission in the list because he alleged that it had a special status resting on post-war settlements and came within Article 107 of the Charter.

Non-Governmental Organizations

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has established consultative relations with a large number of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) with international membership; partly to enable the Council to secure expert information from organizations with special competence in their fields and partly so that these organizations may make their views known to the United Nations. They are classified in three groups according to their range of interests. All may send observers to meetings of the Council and its Commissions. Those in Categories A and B may submit written statements for circulation and may present their views orally. The nine organizations in Category A may propose items directly for inclusion in the agenda of the Commissions or through the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee for inclusion in the agenda of the Council itself.¹

Discussion of Non-Governmental Organizations at the fifteenth session of ECOSOC centred on two questions; the admission of new organizations to consultative status or the reclassification of some already admitted; and the right of access to the United Nations headquarters in New York of representatives of qualified Non-Governmental Organizations.

The Council adopted the recommendations of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee by which 12 organizations were admitted direct or reclassified to Category B status or admitted to the register. Upon a proposal by the Belgian Representative, it rejected the recommendation of the Committee and decided to reclassify to Category B the World Federation of Catholic Young Women and Girls. There was considerable discussion about the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF) and the World Federation of Democratic Youth, both of which have outstanding applications supported by the U.S.S.R. for reclassification to Category A. The United States had requested in the Committee that the Category B status of the WIDF be reviewed. The Council decided not to grant the applications of these two organizations for Category A status and to adopt a resolution put forward by the United Kingdom that the seventeenth session of ECOSOC should review all Non-Governmental Organizations admitted to Category B status at or before the thirteenth session of the Council.

At previous sessions of the Council and the Assembly there has been discussion regarding the right of access to United Nations headquarters in New York on the part of representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations. The question arose again as the result of the

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1951-52*, pp. 79-80.