

trial, freedom of religion, freedom of movement, family rights, and trade union rights. Some of the communications were about problems of arbitrary arrest, detention, asylum, civil liberties in general terms, educational rights, forced labour, genocide, slavery and the right of property. The question of how to handle such communication was raised, and a suggestion was made that an item be put on the agenda of the next session of the Commission to study the problem of procedures. However, this proposal was defeated by a vote of 4 in favour, 2 against, with 11 abstentions.

The Commission also considered the report of the eighth session of its sub-commission studying the prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities. The terms of office of 11 members of this sub-commission were extended to December 31, 1957, and Mr. Vieno Voitto Saario of Finland was elected to fill the vacancy created by the retirement from the sub-commission of its chairman, Mr. Max Sorensen of Denmark. The Commission also adopted a resolution dealing with the possibility of convening another conference of non-governmental organizations interested in the eradication of prejudice and discrimination. The sub-commission itself had decided to give priority at its ninth session to the subject of discrimination in the field of employment and occupation; it will also present its report on discrimination in education to the Commission at the latter's thirteenth session. Other studies with which the sub-commission is occupied deal with discrimination in the matter of religious rights and practices, and also discrimination in the matter of political rights.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The eleventh session (April-May 1956) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was held in Geneva following the transfer of the Division of Narcotic Drugs to the European Office of the United Nations. The session was preceded by a meeting of an *ad hoc* committee on illicit traffic, and Canada is a member of this committee as well as of the Commission. The *ad hoc* committee made a thorough review of the illicit traffic, and found that its trends and volume continue to give reason for grave concern.

The main task before the Commission remains the drafting of a proposed Single Convention which will unify the nine existing multilateral treaties concerning narcotic drugs. The Commission found it difficult to make any substantial progress in its reading of the second draft and, after considering articles referring to amendments and reservations as well as proposals concerning statistics to be furnished on the production of opium, poppy straw, coca leaf and cannabis, it proposed further study of the problem at the next session and requested further comments from the interested governments.

The Commission and ECOSOC considered in detail the whole question of technical assistance in the field of narcotics control and decided that assistance should be made available to governments requesting it. Canada has offered to train scientists in the techniques of determining the origin of opium by physical and chemical means in the laboratories of the Food and Drug Administration¹, where Canadian scientists are carrying out extensive

¹See *External Affairs*, Monthly Bulletin of the Department of External Affairs, November 1955, pp. 289-293.