55. THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE

The resolution covering genocide adopted by the General Assembly on December 11, 1946, recites that genocide is a denial of the right of existence of entire human groups, similar to homicide for the individual. The Assembly affirmed that it was an international crime for which all responsible for its perpetration are punishable. [1] The resolution invited Member States to enact the necessary legislation and requested the Economic and Social Council to undertake studies with a view to submitting a draft convention on genocide to the Second Session of the Assembly.

A draft convention was accordingly submitted by the Council to the Assembly with a request for further instructions.

The Legal Committee considered what measures could best be taken in connection with the convention on genocide. Some delegations stressed the sociological aspects of the study and the political nature of the problem. Other delegations, emphasizing the legal nature of the work, suggested that the convention be referred to the International Law Commission. On November 21, 1947, the Assembly noted that many governments had not submitted observations on the draft convention and requested the Economic and Social Council to continue its work, taking into account that the International Law Commission has been charged with the formulation of the principles of the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal as well as the preparation of a draft code of offences against peace and security. The Assembly informed the Council it need not await the observation of all Members before commencing its work and requested the Council to submit a report and the convention at the Third Session of Assembly.[2] Canada supported this resolution which was adopted by the Assembly by 38 in favour and none against with 14 abstentions.

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[1] The text of this resolution is given on p. 268 of *The United Nations, 1946,* Conference series, 1946, No. 3 prepared by the Department of External Affairs.
[2] The text of this resolution is given in Appendix V, D, p. 260.