

to virtually all states. Canada's major objectives were the adoption of a new multilateral instrument which would be acceptable to as many states as possible, would be a simplified and yet effective treaty, would lead to the further control of the production of and trade in narcotic drugs and would create a more flexible and efficient control system.

The conference completed its work on March 25, 1961, by adopting the text of the Convention as a whole by a vote of 46 in favour, none against, with eight abstentions. The Soviet bloc abstained on the grounds that "some states" were prevented under Article 48 from acceding to the convention and that many articles referred improperly to the Secretary-General. The final act of the conference (a formal statement of the facts of the session) was approved by 50 votes in favour, none against, with one abstention.

For the sake of universality, the provisions of the new treaty have been formulated in such a way as to make acceptance possible for all states, regardless of their political and judicial systems and the level of their economic, social and cultural development. However, the fundamental principles of the drug-control system — limiting the use of narcotic drugs to medical and scientific purposes only — remain the same as those incorporated in the 1912 Hague Convention and subsequently in the other multilateral agreements in the field.

The principles in the quantitative control of drugs, based on the system of estimates and statistics enacted by the Geneva conventions of 1925 and 1931, have been incorporated with modifications.

### **International Control Machinery**

The Convention entrusted the United Nations and some of its organs with certain functions because of United Nations competence in the international control of drugs. The 15-member Commission on Narcotic Drugs, one of ECOSOC's functional commissions, will continue to act as the main political and legislative body of the control system. All the Commission's decisions and recommendations, concerning the provisions of the Convention, are subject to approval and modification by the Council or the General Assembly in the same manner as the Commission's other decisions and recommendations.

The machinery for administering quantitative control has been simplified by combining the functions of the Permanent Central Opium Board (PCOB) and the Drug Supervisory Body. These two technical bodies, which have quasi-judicial power, will be replaced by the newly-created International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). The new Board will be composed of 11 members of ECOSOC in the following manner: (a) three members from a list of at least five persons nominated by the World Health Organization; and (b) eight members from a list of persons nominated by the members of the United Nations and by parties not United Nations members. The term of office of the Board members will be three years, and they will be eligible for re-election. The members will serve in their personal capacity as technical experts — rather than as representatives of