

members shared this view and arranged to refer the draft Code to national and international professional associations for such action as they might wish to take. On the insistence of France it was agreed that, if these organizations wished to hold an international conference, the United Nations might help in organizing it.

The Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information also submitted various suggestions for new machinery by which the study of problems on freedom of information could be continued. Its proposals were rejected by the fourteenth session of ECOSOC, however, which decided instead (Canada agreeing) to appoint a rapporteur who, in association with the Secretary-General, the Specialized Agencies, and the chief journalistic organizations, would prepare a report for submission to the Council in 1953 on problems and developments in the field of freedom of information.

Other action taken by ECOSOC included the adoption, at the thirteenth session in 1951, of a resolution sponsored by the United States, expressing concern over "governmental action aimed at the systematic exclusion of bona fide correspondents, the imposition of arbitrary personal restraints and the infliction of punishments upon such correspondents solely because of their attempts faithfully to perform their duties in gathering and transmitting news", and urging "that personal restraints be removed and sentences imposing arbitrary punishments be revoked". It was clear that this resolution was directed at the imprisonment of William N. Oatis, Associated Press correspondent, by the Government of Czechoslovakia. Canada supported the resolution.

At its fourteenth session ECOSOC passed a resolution urging states to do everything within their power to ensure that resolutions of the General Assembly reached the largest possible public within their borders. A further resolution was adopted which invited the Secretary-General, in conjunction with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to study ways and means of encouraging and developing independent domestic information agencies. Canada voted in favour of the first of these resolutions. It abstained on the second, believing that domestic information agencies are the concern of individual states rather than of an international organization.

At the same session, the Soviet Union introduced a resolution calling for steps to prohibit the misuse of freedom of information and the spread of fascist ideology. The countries outside the Soviet bloc, including Canada, voted the resolution down. They spoke of the thought control and the government interference with the press which occur in the countries of the Soviet bloc, and expressed the opinion that a resolution of this type, whose obvious purpose was propaganda, could not further the cause of freedom of information.

Refugees and Migration

As the work of the International Refugee Organization (IRO) drew to an end,¹ the United Nations and interested governments gave thought to the steps which should be taken to ensure that continuing problems which had been the responsibility of the IRO would still

¹See pp. 106-108.