

A considerable amount of the time of the Commission on Human Rights at its last Session, and of the Council at its 24th Session was taken up with discussion of plans for the observance next year of the Tenth Anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Very comprehensive plans were produced, the full implications of which were not clear a month or so ago when the matter was considered by the Council. Those plans were approved in principle at that time and a committee was set up to co-operate with the Secretary-General in making the necessary arrangements to give effect to the various recommendations of the Commission. The Canadian Delegation will be interested to learn in due course what concrete plans have been made on the basis of the recommendations which were considered earlier.

With regard to the important work of the Commission on the Status of Women, all I wish to say now is that the Canadian Government looks forward to a useful and interesting term of office on the Commission, to which it was elected earlier this year.



Mr. Chairman, I should now like to turn briefly to one or two of the questions covered by Chapter VII of the report of the Council. The programme of action in the field of human rights, which encompasses the programme of reports and special studies, as well as the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, is still in its experimental stages and very little need be said about it at this stage. The first of a series of periodic reports covering the periods 1954 to 1956, are due from Governments now and the responsible authorities in Canada have been actively engaged during recent months in the preparation of suitable material for submission to the Secretary-General. The Canadian Government some time ago submitted material to be used in connection with the first of the series of special studies on specific rights or groups of rights, that is, the one on freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention and exile. We look forward with interest to the results of the Human Rights Commission's consideration of all of the material which will have been made available by member governments in connection with these reports and studies.

In connection with the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, I have read with interest the report which has been circulated by the Secretary-General in Document A/C.3/L.609 concerning the seminar on Civic Responsibilities and Increased Participation of Asian Women in Public Life which was held in Bangkok from the 5th to the 10th of August, 1957. It seems to my Delegation that the results of this first seminar under the programme have been sufficiently interesting and promising to justify consideration of other seminars in the future conducted on similar lines. The experience gained in Bangkok should be of assistance to the Secretary-General and others concerned in the planning of other and more successful seminars in the future.