

Social Commission

The Social Commission held its ninth session in New York May 4-20, 1953. The Canadian member of the Commission, who is Mr. R. B. Curry of the Department of National Health and Welfare, was elected Chairman. The two matters on which resolutions were adopted by the Commission — the future of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and the Programme of Concerted Practical Action in the Social Field — are the subject of separate articles in this volume.¹ For the rest, the session was devoted to the adoption of a work programme and priorities for 1954-55, and to a consideration of progress reports submitted by the Secretary-General on selected items of the very extensive list of subjects in the social welfare field with which the Commission has concerned itself.² The subjects thus examined included advisory assistance to governments in establishing community welfare centres intended to encourage community self-development activities and the training of local welfare personnel; social defence, that is techniques useful in the prevention of crime and treatment of offenders; studies in the financing of housing; and advisory social welfare services. The discussion was confined to an exchange of views and no departures were made from established policy in any of these questions. At the time this article was written, the sixteenth session of ECOSOC had not yet discussed the Commission's report.

Regional Economic Commissions

There are three regional economic commissions: the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE). The seventh session of the General Assembly in December 1952 passed a resolution commending the work of ECAFE and ECLA in trade promotion and development; suggesting that activities in the latter field should be intensified; and taking note of the part which the ECE could play in the development of under-developed countries through co-operation with the other two commissions.³

Economic Commission for Europe

ECE consists of European states, both members and non-members of the United Nations, and the United States. Despite political difficulties, the Commission and its technical committees have performed useful work. The Coal Trade Sub-Committee has made quarterly recommendations for the equitable allocation of declared export availabilities. The Inland Transport Committee has been concerned with important questions concerning invest-

¹See "Aid for Children" pp. 37-38; "World Social Situation", pp. 38-39.

²Further details and references to documentation may be found in Document E/2437 Social Commission; Report of the Ninth Session.

³See *Canada and the United Nations 1951-52*, pp. 89-92.