

The fifteenth session of ECOSOC adopted a resolution which first recommended that governments adhere to the Slavery Convention of 1926; secondly initiated studies aimed at the assumption by the United Nations of the League of Nations' functions under this Convention, and the examination of the desirability of a supplementary convention; and thirdly called for further information from governments, Specialized Agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

Allegations of Interference with Trade Union Rights

At the fourth session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1947, memoranda were received from the World Federation of Trade Unions and the American Federation of Labour urging international action to protect freedom of association. The Council referred the subject to the International Labour Organization (ILO) which in 1949 set up a Fact Finding and Conciliation Commission on Freedom of Association. By resolution 277 (X) ECOSOC decided to refer to this Commission all allegations received regarding the infringement of trade-union rights. If the allegations are against states not members of the ILO, this is done only with the consent of the government concerned. When in 1950 the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions submitted a complaint regarding infringement of trade-union rights in the Soviet Union, which is not a member of ILO, the Secretary-General enquired whether the government of the U.S.S.R. was willing to have this complaint investigated by the ILO Commission.

By the fifteenth session of ECOSOC (March-April 1953) no reply had been received. The Council accordingly requested the Secretary-General to invite the Government of the Soviet Union to reconsider its attitude. The numerous other allegations before the Council relating to states members of ILO were forwarded to ILO for consideration and possible referral to the Commission, and the Secretary-General was requested to take the same action in the future with all such allegations.

Three of the allegations, against Greece, and the administration of Tunisia and Morocco, were made by the Soviet Government and delegates of Western countries pointed out the inconsistency of the Soviet position in this matter.

Intergovernmental Organizations

The sixth session of ECOSOC in 1948 asked the Secretary-General to prepare a report on "Inter-Governmental Organizations in the Economic, Social, Cultural, Educational, Health and Related Fields" which is now a standing United Nations document. The fifteenth session approved a further revision of the list, disregarding the objections of the Soviet Representative to certain organizations which included Spain in their membership and others which, he alleged, were "simply ancillary to NATO". The Danube Commission, which was established by the riparian states in 1948, was included