

Council also authorized a study of racial discrimination in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres; extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Slavery to permit him to bring forth at the forty-first session a full report on slavery practices; and discussed briefly, but took no decision on, the creation of the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. All in all the Council, while it was not able to complete the unusually long list of agenda items of its thirty-ninth session, passed 40 resolutions on such subjects, apart from those already mentioned, as water desalinization, the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference, land reform, transport development and the financing of economic development. ECOSOC held a resumed session in November to deal with the first reports of the Trade and Development Board, to elect the first members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (including Canada for a two-year term), and to approve the provisional agenda for the 1966 sessions.

Functional Commissions

In 1965 the six Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council held meetings. During the year, Canada was a member of the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Statistical Commission, and sent delegations to their respective sessions.

Commission on Human Rights

At its twenty-first session, held in Geneva in March and April 1965, the Commission on Human Rights devoted most of its time to discussing the draft International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance.¹ Broadly speaking, much of the debate on the convention revolved around the definition of certain key words. Some delegations preferred a more general approach, which would tend to confine the convention to indicating the direction which national legislation should follow with respect to religious discrimination, but most members, including Canada, believed that, if the convention was to have significance, its provisions should be spelled out as clearly as possible. The Commission was only able to approve the preamble and four of the articles of the draft convention, but is scheduled to deal with it again at its twenty-second session in 1966.

The Commission dealt at length with the question of "war criminals and crimes committed against humanity", decided to ask the Secretary-General to

¹For further details on this subject see *External Affairs*, June 1965, P. 226. In 1963 and 1964, the Commission had dealt with and approved about half the articles of a draft declaration on the same subject, and it is scheduled to resume discussion of this question at its twenty-second session in 1966.