

Two conventions have been concluded with the United States Government, modifying and supplementing the conventions of June 8, 1944 and March 4, 1942 for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion in the case of succession duties, estate taxes, and income taxes. These conventions were presented to the United States Senate for ratification by the President of the United States on June 30, 1950.

### International Telecommunications

Canada has a very considerable interest in the allocation of frequencies in all bands. The International Service of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation now broadcasts to most parts of the world; and the rapid development of the vast northern hinterland has increased Canadian requirements for channels in the high frequency band.

Negotiations in which Canada participated in 1950 were aimed mainly at obtaining agreement in the high frequency portion of the radio spectrum. High frequency channels have assumed greatly increased importance in recent years because they are the channels used in long range directional transmissions and communications services. A conference on this subject sat at Rapallo in Italy from April 1 to August 19, 1950. The Soviet Union and its satellites withdrew early on the political grounds of participation by Nationalist China, and the conference finally adjourned without reaching agreement. A further conference, which would have tried to obtain agreement on allocations over the whole of the radio spectrum and which was scheduled to begin at The Hague on September 1, 1950, was cancelled when it became clear that prospects for its success were remote.

In contrast to such developments in the global sphere, some success was achieved in regional negotiations. After a conference in Washington, the States of the North American region signed, on November 21, 1950, an agreement concerning the allocation of frequencies in the standard broadcasting band. Of the interested North American States, only Mexico and Haiti have not yet signed this agreement.

One of the main international agencies dealing with problems of the international control of telecommunications is the International Telecommunications Union, one of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, with headquarters at Geneva. Canada is represented on the administrative Council of the Union, which meets annually. It is chiefly through the I.T.U. that further efforts will be made to increase the degree of international agreement and control throughout the whole field of telecommunications.