

progress of, the peoples in territories under their jurisdiction.¹ At its seventh session the General Assembly adopted the two recommendations, with some amendments, and instructed the Commission on Human Rights to continue preparing recommendations on this subject.

The Commission on Human Rights was not able to prepare further recommendations by the time the eighth session of the General Assembly met in 1953, but it had in the meantime included in the Draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights an article containing special provisions for the implementation of the right of self-determination. A number of delegations at the eighth session were dissatisfied with the Commission's failure to act on the directive given at the previous session and a resolution was finally proposed which asked the Commission to give due priority to the preparation of recommendations on self-determination at its next session. The resolution was approved by a vote of 43 in favour, 9 against and 5 abstentions (including Canada). In explanation of Canada's abstention the Canadian Representative doubted the wisdom of such a directive to the Human Rights Commission. It was not clear what was meant by "due priority" and it was, in any case, the opinion of the Canadian Delegation that the Human Rights Commission should be encouraged to concentrate on completing the Draft Covenants on Human Rights which had been before it for a number of years.

At its tenth session, in April 1954, the Commission on Human Rights, of which Canada is not at present a member, passed a resolution recommending that the General Assembly establish two commissions to deal with the matter of self-determination of peoples. One of these commissions would conduct a survey of the status of the right of self-determination and make recommendations for strengthening it. The other would examine any situation resulting from alleged denial or inadequate realization of the right of self-determination.

Forced Labour

An examination of the prevalence of forced or "corrective" labour has been occupying the Economic and Social Council since 1948, and in 1951 there was set up an *Ad Hoc* Committee on Forced Labour under the joint auspices of the United Nations and the International Labour Organization.² The members of the Committee, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar of India, Mr. Paal Berg of Norway and Mr. Enrique Garcia Sayan of Peru, were charged with the task of studying the nature and extent of systems of forced or corrective labour. The Committee's final Report, a document of some 600 pages, was submitted in June 1953. It stated that the inquiry had revealed the existence in the world of two principal systems of forced labour, the first employed as a means of political coercion or punishment for holding or expressing political views, the second for important economic purposes. In the opinion of the Committee, evidence had been submitted to them of systems of forced labour of so grave a nature that they seriously threatened fundamental human rights and

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1952-53*, pp. 43-44.

²See *Canada and the United Nations 1950*, pp. 74-75.