

submit their observations on the draft (only nine governments had replied by the deadline, October 1, 1959). At its fifteenth session the Commission noted that ECOSOC Resolution 689 (XXVI) called for the convening of a United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Single Conference on Narcotic Drugs at headquarters from January 24 to March 25, 1961.

Conference for Adoption of Convention

The aim of the plenipotentiary conference was to adopt, and open for signature, a draft single convention which would replace the eight existing multilateral treaties in the field of narcotics control and to make provision for the control of the production of raw materials. The conference had before it the third draft of the proposed treaty and a compilation of comments submitted on it.

Under the terms of the Economic and Social Council resolution, the following states and agencies were invited to participate in the Conference for the Adoption of a Single Convention: (1) all United Nations members and members of the Specialized Agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency; (2) the World Health Organization and other Specialized Agencies interested in the matter; (3) the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Drug Supervisory Body; and (4) the International Criminal Police Organization.

Representatives of 73 countries and one observer participated in the conference's work. Represented without the right of vote were the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Drug Supervisory Body, several Specialized Agencies and non-governmental organizations. The conference was also attended in a personal capacity by the Director of the Permanent Anti-Narcotics Bureau of the League of Arab States.

The conference unanimously elected Dr. C. W. A. Schurmann of the Netherlands as President, and, by a secret ballot, 18 vice-presidents, as follows: Afghanistan, Brazil, Dahomey, France, Hungary, India, Iran, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, the U.S.S.R., the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom and the United States. The study of technical provisions of the treaty, especially the schedules and the "definitions", was assigned to a 23-member technical (scientific) committee of which Canada was a member. The formulation of the Convention in legal terms was entrusted to a 15-member drafting committee under the chairmanship of the head of the Canadian Delegation, Mr. R. E. Curran. Mr. Curran was well suited for this post because of his earlier work as Chairman of the Commission's Drafting Committee at its twelfth and thirteenth sessions, and because of his familiarity with the draft convention.

Canada was a member of several *ad hoc* working groups and, in general, played a major role both at the conference and at earlier sessions of the Commission. Since Canada was already a party to most of the existing treaties, it could have adopted without difficulty the third draft of the convention. This enabled the Canadian Delegation to participate actively in working out texts acceptable