

During the period under review, the Commission held its tenth session in Geneva from February 9 to 20, 1959. Reviewing the world's population situation, the Commission called the Council's attention to the accelerating growth of population, particularly in under-developed countries. It stated the belief that each government had a responsibility to study the inter-relation between population growth and economic and social progress and emphasized the importance of the task of the United Nations, which is to assist member states in this field by undertaking certain studies, aiding in training of specialized personnel and the development of techniques for population studies and helping to extend and improve basic population statistics.

In the course of its session, the Commission passed two resolutions. One resolution was concerned with the problem of migration and requested the Secretary-General *inter alia* to offer the co-operation of the United Nations to less developed countries in the process of industrialization which desire to undertake various demographic studies, including the magnitude and characteristics of internal migration, especially between rural and urban areas. The Commission also recommended, as a means of encouraging and assisting governments to undertake studies of population trends and their implications, that a series of pilot studies be carried out as co-operative projects of the United Nations and interested governments. These studies would be aimed at demonstrating the value of using available data, especially the results of censuses, in planning and carrying out development programmes. These two recommendations formed the basis of a report submitted to and discussed at the 27th session of ECOSOC held in Mexico City from April 7 to 24, 1959.

Canada is actively participating in the work of the Commission. One of Canada's special contributions has been in the technical field of preparation of standards for the population census to be conducted about 1960 as part of the World's Population Census Programme.

### Social Commission

The Commission is composed of eighteen members elected by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It makes recommendations to ECOSOC in the field of social welfare and social development including the elaboration of international agreements. In recent years many delegations have placed increasing emphasis on the importance of social programmes of the United Nations and particularly of United Nations activities which are likely to assist under-developed countries to deal with social aspects of economic development.

During the period under review, the Commission held its twelfth session in New York from April 27 to May 15, 1959. Reviewing the world social situation the Commission passed seven resolutions which formed the basis for the discussions on social questions which took place at the 28th session of ECOSOC held in Geneva from June 30 to July 31, 1959.

Considerable attention was devoted at the Commission's session to the report "The Long Range Programme of Concerted International Action in the Field of Low Cost Housing and Related Facilities". It was noted that the standard of general housing conditions in many countries remained disappointing. The resolution which was passed recommended that governments should institute or accelerate programmes for the extension of low cost housing and requested that a report be presented to the next session of the Commission on specific joint and individual projects planned by the participating organizations on a long range basis. At the fourteenth session of the General Assembly the Canadian Representative cautioned that the scope for international action in this field was limited largely to technical assistance and advice in the form of reports and studies.