

Turning to Section II of Chapter VI of the report of ECOSOC, which deals with the work of the Population Commission, I should merely like to comment on the fact that the report of that Commission to the Council proved to be one of the least controversial items on the agenda of the twenty-third Session. The important problems with which the Commission deals are considered in a businesslike fashion by a group of hard-working members, many of whom are experts in this very technical field. My country has had the honour to be represented on that Commission for several years and will continue to give it the support which it should have.

We have already had a useful discussion on Section III of the Chapter, which deals with UNICEF, and we shall later in the Session be dealing specifically with two items on our agenda relating to the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The only remaining section of Chapter VI to be mentioned, therefore, is Section V which is devoted to the international control of narcotic drugs. On this subject, which is so important to the social and economic betterment of mankind, it is not necessary for me to say very much, since Canada has been represented on the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for many years and has played an active part there and elsewhere in the development of co-operative international action for the control of the use of narcotics, which may be either a boon or a curse to mankind. We shall continue to do whatever we can to assist in the achievement of the objectives of the Commission.

Mr. Chairman, I should now like to turn briefly to one or two of the questions covered by Chapter VII of the report of the Council. The programme of action in the field of human rights, which encompasses the programme of periodic reports and special studies, as well as the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, is still in its experimental stages and very little need be said about it at this stage. The first of a series of periodic reports, covering the periods 1954 to 1956, are due from Governments now and the responsible authorities in Canada have been actively engaged during recent months in the preparation of suitable material for submission to the Secretary-General. The Canadian Government some time ago submitted material to be used in connection with the first of the series of special studies on specific rights or groups of rights, that is, the one on freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention and exile. We look forward with interest to the results of the Human Rights Commission's consideration of all of the material which will have been made available by member governments in connection with these reports and studies.

In connection with the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, I have read with interest the report which has been circulated by the Secretary-General in Document A/C3/L609 concerning the seminar on Civic Responsibilities and Increased Participation of Asian Women in Public Life which was held in Bangkok from the 5th to the 16th of August, 1957. It seems to my Delegation that the results of this first seminar under the programme have been sufficiently interesting and promising to justify consideration of other seminars in the future conducted on similar lines. The experience gained in Bangkok should be of assistance to the Secretariat and others concerned in the planning of other even more successful seminars in the future.