

International Telegraph Consultative Committee met May 26 - June 13, 1953 and issued a large number of recommendations intended to improve and standardize international telegraphic communications. Study groups of the International Telephone Consultative Committee considered numerous technical, operational and tariff questions and prepared a draft plan for long distance lines to link the Middle East and Southern Asia to Europe and the Mediterranean basin. The International Radio Consultative Committee met September - October 1953 and adopted 58 recommendations, 22 reports and 10 resolutions submitted by study groups. Agreement was reached on the standardization of sound recording systems and on an international alarm signal to be used on the radiotelephony distress frequency by small ships.

During 1953 technical assistance missions were either in operation or under consideration in 15 countries and 11 fellows coming from 7 different countries were in training abroad. Two Canadian radio experts took up their duties in Ethiopia in January and February 1954.

World Meteorological Organization

The International Meteorological Organization, which was founded in 1878, was composed of the directors of the meteorological services of a number of countries, including Canada. It has become increasingly important in aviation, shipping, agriculture and other fields to have accurate and readily available meteorological data, and in 1947 the Conference of Directors of the International Meteorological Organization met in Washington to draw up a convention establishing the World Meteorological Organization which was to be an inter-governmental organization with broad powers and responsibilities. The convention came into effect on March 23, 1950, having been signed and ratified by 30 countries. Canada was an original signatory and ratified on July 12, 1950. The purposes of the Organization are to facilitate co-operation among various meteorological services; to promote the establishment and maintenance of systems for the rapid exchange of weather information; to promote standardization of meteorological observations and to ensure the uniform publication of observations and statistics; to further the application of meteorology in such fields as aviation, shipping and agriculture; and to encourage and assist in co-ordinating the international aspects of research and training in meteorology.¹

The policy-making body of WMO is the Congress, on which every member is represented and which meets every four years, the first meeting having been held in Paris in March 1951. There are six regional associations, whose primary activity is to promote the execution of the resolutions of the Congress and Executive Committee in their respective regions, and eight technical commissions of experts. The Executive Committee is responsible for carrying out the directives of the Congress and is composed of the presidents of the regional associations (elected by the associations) and an

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1952-53*, pp. 74-75.