

international prices and the resolution was adopted on a close vote of 24 in favour, 15 against (including Canada) with 10 abstentions. The group of experts, which reported at the end of 1953, recommended among other things the establishment of an inter-governmental trade stabilization commission to discuss and to propose courses of action designed to promote stability in primary commodity markets. After an examination of the expert study, ECOSOC at its seventeenth session in 1954 approved the establishment of a Permanent Advisory Commission on International Commodity Trade, which would have as one of its main tasks an examination of measures aimed at avoiding uneconomic fluctuations in the prices and value of primary commodities as well as measures for the maintenance of a "just and equitable relationship between the prices of primary commodities and the prices of manufactured goods in international trade". Consideration of the actual establishment and organization of the Commission was postponed to the eighteenth session of the Council, and member governments were asked to transmit to the United Nations their comments on the Advisory Commission together with their views concerning their participation. The Canadian Government, in informing the Secretary-General of its present views, noted that since it shared the doubts of the group of experts that additional machinery would be useful if the governments principally concerned were not willing to lend it their full support, it could not offer detailed comments on the Commission's terms of reference. The Canadian note added further that the commodity by commodity approach to international stabilization arrangements appeared the most likely to be successful and that the existing machinery, including the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements, had served and could continue to serve a useful purpose.

Studies on Internal Migration

Programmes of economic and social development, if they are to be successful, depend to a large extent upon the availability of comprehensive and accurate statistical data. At the eighth session of the General Assembly, the view was advanced that studies already undertaken by the Economic and Social Council, the Population Commission and the International Labour Organization had not sufficiently reflected the importance of the relationship between internal migration and economic and social development and that further study was required on the complex problems raised by population movements within the under-developed countries. A resolution was accordingly passed inviting ECOSOC to develop, in co-operation with ILO and other interested parties, a programme of studies on internal migration. Canada voted in favour of this resolution. The only opposition came from the Soviet bloc, which argued that the question fell within the domestic jurisdiction of states and was thus outside the competence of the United Nations.