

Following the recommendation of ECOSOC¹, a renewed effort was made to secure the 21 ratifications needed to bring into force the Convention on the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization, signed on March 6, 1948. At the end of 1955, however, three ratifications were still required before the first assembly of this Organization could be convoked and a Secretary-General elected. The Danish, Norwegian and Swedish Governments proposed to the seventh session of the Transport and Communications Commission a number of amendments to the IMCO Convention limiting the scope of the Organization to safety and technical nautical questions; the Commission rejected these proposals by a vote of 6 to 1. In its report to ECOSOC, the Commission drew attention to the continuing desirability of early ratification of the Convention. The seventeenth session of ECOSOC approved a resolution inviting the Secretary-General to pursue his consultations with the governments of those eligible states which have not so far ratified the Convention with a view to hastening its coming into force.

Population Commission

Canada has been closely connected with the work of the Population Commission since it was set up in 1947 by the Economic and Social Council. At its eighth session, which was held in New York in March of 1955, a Canadian was elected Chairman of the Commission.

The work of the Commission occupies an important place in the activities of the United Nations looking towards economic and social development. The Commission has pointed out that "the resolution of the problems confronting countries in their endeavour to raise levels of living depends upon the prior provision of adequate population information, without which sound economic and social policies cannot be formulated and without which technical and financial assistance cannot be efficiently utilized". It accordingly arranged priorities for future activities with increasing emphasis on projects relevant to development.

Canada has been able to make a special contribution in the technical field of preparation of standards for the population censuses to be taken around 1960. Other future work for the Commission on projects already initiated include population estimates and forecasts, evaluation of national population statistics, the study of inter-relationship of demographic, economic and social factors in Mysore State (in which pioneer survey methods are being applied in co-operation with the Government of India), a study of the size and composition of the labour force in its relation to population trends and some projects in immigration and emigration.

Social Commission

At its tenth annual session, held in New York in May 1955, the Social Commission approved for submission to the Economic and Social Council a resolution on the Report on International Definition and Measurement of Standards and Levels of Living, which it had examined in conjunction with the recommendations of the Statistical Commission. It submitted resolutions on the principles of community development; on the training of welfare personnel; on the financing of housing and community improvement programmes; and on an international survey of programmes of social development. It also adopted a programme of work covering its project for the years 1955, 1956 and 1957. In conformity with resolution 566 (XIX) of the Economic and

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1953-54*, p. 60.