

Security) and Special Political Committees as well as the problems before the Fourth Committee which is the one responsible for questions relating to trust and dependent territories.

The Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee which, at the tenth session of the General Assembly, had been unable to consider the agenda item on self-determination, once again found itself without sufficient time to enter into a substantive discussion. It therefore adopted a procedural resolution proposed by Afghanistan, on which Canada abstained, recommending that the item be deferred until the twelfth session of the General Assembly. In plenary session, the General Assembly agreed to this recommendation without further discussion or vote.

### **Advisory Services in the Field of Human Rights**

At its twentieth session the Economic and Social Council considered several matters arising out of a resolution passed by the tenth session of the General Assembly in 1955 which dealt with advisory services in the field of human rights. That resolution had originated earlier in the Human Rights Commission on the initiative of the United States Delegation. Under it the Secretary-General was authorized to provide advisory services, including the services of experts, fellowships and scholarships, and seminars, which were to be consolidated with technical assistance programmes in related fields already approved by the General Assembly.

Meanwhile, the Commission on the Status of Women had adopted a resolution endorsing the use of seminars to assist women who had recently acquired political rights or did not yet fully exercise them, and the sub-commission dealing with the prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities had adopted a resolution emphasizing the desirability of holding seminars on the prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities. The Human Rights Commission itself, noting the General Assembly resolution providing for advisory services in the field of human rights and considering the recommendations of the two other bodies mentioned above, passed a resolution at its twelfth session in March 1956 requesting the Secretary-General to explore the desirability of holding seminars in the field of human rights, especially with regard to the prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities.

The Secretary-General informed ECOSOC at its twenty-first session of the preliminary steps which had been taken to implement the General Assembly resolution, and suggested, in connection with the part of the programme which concerned the promotion of freedom of information, that during 1956 the main emphasis should be on fellowships and seminars for news personnel. Specifically the Secretary-General proposed (a) a two-week seminar at Geneva and (b) the awarding of fellowships to professional newsmen for a period of from four to six months at United Nations Headquarters and at the headquarters and offices of the Specialized Agencies. ECOSOC approved a resolution giving effect to this suggestion and requested the Secretary-General to continue to develop all aspects of the programme as well as to undertake a seminar during 1956 along the lines suggested in the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women.