

At ensuing discussions and conferences a deadlock developed over a proposal to effect control by the establishment of an international monopoly of opium production. In 1951, however, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs approved the principle of limiting opium production by means of national monopolies in producing countries which should report figures on stocks held to the PCOB. The Secretary-General prepared in legal form a draft protocol and, after discussions and the submission of observations by interested governments, the Economic and Social Council decided, at its fourteenth session in 1952, to convene an international conference to adopt the final text of a protocol relating to the limitation of opium production. The Protocol, the text of which was approved by the Conference on June 18, 1953, restricts production of opium for export to seven states: Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, U.S.S.R., Iran, India and Yugoslavia. In each of these producing states there must be a national monopoly to supervise production, and yearly stocks of opium must be limited to a fixed amount based on a formula calculated from the exports of post-war years. The yearly stocks of countries which consume opium domestically and those which use it as a raw material from which to manufacture other drugs are also limited. Enforcement of the Protocol is entrusted to the PCOB, which is authorized as a last resort to impose an embargo (observance of which is mandatory upon states signatory to the Protocol) upon trade in opium with an offending state.

The Protocol is now open for signature by governments and will come into force upon ratification by 25 states including three of the producing and three of the manufacturing states named therein. Nineteen countries, not including Canada, had signed the Protocol by June 30.

Slavery

The active interest of the United Nations in the problem of the continued existence of slavery and similar practices goes back to the adoption by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on July 20, 1949, of a resolution instructing the Secretary-General to appoint an *Ad Hoc* Committee of not more than five experts to assess the nature and extent of the problems, suggest methods of attacking them and recommend the proper division of responsibility among various United Nations bodies.

The replies received to a questionnaire prepared by the Committee, and the Secretary-General's re-examination of the subject, led to the conclusions that vestiges of crude slavery still exist and that other institutions and practices create similar conditions for a much greater number of people. It also appeared that governments generally based their replies on the laws in force in their territories (which were said to prohibit slavery and servitude) rather than on the application of these laws and the conditions actually existing. The Canadian reply simply stated that slavery, slave trade, and analogous practices not having existed in this country since Canada became a nation, there was little or no mention of such practices in Canadian law.