

and to submit a final report to the eleventh session of the Assembly in 1956. Also at the request of the Assembly, the Secretary-General is to convene at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization in April of 1955 an international technical conference to study the conservation of the living resources of the sea.

Several economic matters were considered at the ninth session. Most of these were of a continuing nature and the debate on important issues was, on the whole, constructive and free from acrimony. The subjects discussed included technical assistance, several other aspects of economic development, the question of a world food reserve, trade, employment and related matters. Canada pledged \$1,500,000 as her contribution to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in the coming year; this pledge was based on the assumption that contributions from other countries will be on a scale which will permit an effective programme, an assumption which seems well founded. The Canadian delegation announced that the Canadian Government is prepared to support the proposed International Finance Corporation which, under the aegis of the International Bank, would promote investment of capital in private enterprises in under-developed countries. On the question of the proposed special United Nations fund for economic development, the Canadian delegation supported a resolution providing for further examination of the manner in which such a fund might operate but made it clear that Canada is not committed to the establishment of such a fund at this stage.

The Assembly agreed on a procedure for final revision of the draft International Covenants on Human Rights. Consideration was also given to the desirability of drafting a supplementary convention on slavery, and to measures for the abolition of forced labour practices. With respect to women's rights a resolution was adopted urging the abolition of customs or ancient laws affecting the human dignity of women.

The Assembly authorized the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to undertake a programme designed to achieve, within the next four years, permanent solutions to the problems of refugees under his mandate, and requested the Negotiating Committee for Extra-budgetary Funds to seek financial contributions from governments for this purpose and also for emergency relief to these refugees. Earlier in the year the Economic and Social Council considered the question of revising a draft protocol to the Convention on the Status of Refugees which would apply the provisions of the convention to stateless persons.

Canada continued to be impressed with the manner in which the new Secretary-General, Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, has fulfilled his important responsibilities, including the reorganization of the Secretariat. Mr. Hammarskjöld made a brief visit to Canada in February.

2. The Specialized Agencies

During 1954 the Soviet bloc countries showed a renewed interest in the work of some of the Specialized Agencies. The U.S.S.R., the Ukraine, and Byelorussia officially notified their acceptance of the constitutions of the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Decisions on Roumania's applications for membership in these organizations were postponed for the time being. Hungary and Bulgaria resumed active membership in