

on Civil and Political Rights concerning the right to live, with the related question of the death penalty, was approved at the twelfth session. The texts of the draft Covenants have not yet been considered or approved by the Assembly in plenary.

At the thirteenth session, the Third Committee continued to examine the substantive articles of the Draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Articles 7-11). Texts were approved for articles prohibiting torture, cruel or degrading treatment, slavery, servitude, and, except under certain specific conditions, forced or compulsory labour. One of the most important of these articles (Article 9) guarantees everyone freedom from arbitrary arrest or detention, and provides for trial within a reasonable time, for the release of arrested persons (subject to a guarantee to appear for trial) and for the right of anyone deprived of his liberty to contest the lawfulness of his detention before a court. By the text of this article victims of unlawful arrest "shall have an enforceable right to compensation".

Another Article (Article 10) provides that "all persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity" with the segregation, save in exceptional circumstances, of accused persons from convicted persons and of juveniles from adults. The Articles also declares that the essential aim of the penitentiary system shall be the reformation and social rehabilitation of prisoners. Finally, the Committee approved the text of Article 11, which precludes imprisonment "merely on the ground of inability to fulfil a contractual obligation". While abstaining in certain specific details, the Canadian Delegation voted for the text of each of these Articles as a whole.

As at previous sessions, there were expressions of impatience with the slow progress made by the Third Committee in renewing the texts of the Draft Covenants. Some delegations, including that of Canada, held that the Third Committee should continue to give priority to the examination of the Covenants, as the best means of arriving at fully examined texts which could command the support of member governments. The Committee devoted some time to a discussion of the problem of expediting this work, but no formal proposals for alternative procedures were put forward.

Advisory Services in the Field of Human Rights

The Programme of Advisory Services in the Field of Human Rights was established by the General Assembly at its tenth session. It provided for three forms of assistance at the request of governments; advisory services of experts, fellowships and scholarships, and seminars on human rights topics. The programme as established consolidated the existing technical assistance programmes previously approved by the General Assembly relating to the promotion and safeguarding of the rights of women, the eradication of discrimination, the protection of minorities, and the protection of freedom of information.

Under the programme, seminars were held in 1958 in Baguio, the Philippines, (February 17 to March 1) and Santiago, Chile (May 19 to May 30) on the subject of the protection of human rights in criminal law and procedure. The Baguio seminar was attended by legal experts from Asia, Australia and New Zealand, while the Santiago meeting was restricted to North and South American countries, including Canada. The Canadian participant in this seminar was Mr. Joseph Sedgewick, Q.C., a well-known Toronto lawyer.