

suggested, might be suspended during a test period and their duties performed by the Council itself. The work of the Social Commission, the Economic, Employment and Development Commission, and the Transport and Communications Commission might, for example, be suspended. Consideration might also be given to the suspension of the Commission on the Status of Women and the transfer of its functions either to the Commission on Human Rights or to the Council itself, which could devote a portion of its time each year to problems relating to the status of women.

The Canadian memorandum declared that the wisdom of appointing functional commissions composed of experts nominated by member governments, but not responsible to them, did not appear to have been corroborated by past experience. A number of these commissions had not, in practice, operated as technical and non-political bodies, and they had in many instances found themselves unable to accomplish the task for which they were originally established. Moreover, there had been a tendency for these commissions to meet on a semi-permanent and regular basis, even at times when there were no urgent or vital problems calling for their attention. It seemed preferable, in the Canadian view, for the Secretary-General to appoint *ad hoc* groups of experts, in their individual capacity, to undertake specific studies of an economic or a social nature and to prepare objective reports of their findings for submission to the Council. Once the task of a committee of experts had been completed, the committee would be dissolved.

Thus the Canadian proposal was that a large percentage of the functional commissions of the Council should, at least experimentally, be discontinued and their work taken over by the Council itself with the assistance of the Secretariat and *ad hoc* groups of experts appointed when necessary for specific purposes.

The report which the *ad hoc* committee submitted to the thirteenth session of the Council, insofar as it dealt with functional commissions, contained recommendations which were a compromise between the rather radical suggestions proposed by Canada (and supported by the United Kingdom) and the conservative views of those who favoured no change in the operation of the Council and its Commissions. In brief, the recommendations of the Committee were to discontinue the Economic, Employment and Development Commission, the Transport and Communications Commission and the three Sub-Commissions. Even this compromise proposal of the committee was not wholly acceptable to the majority of the Council. In the end the Council decided that the Economic, Employment and Development Commission, the Statistical Commission's Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling, and the Human Rights Commission's Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities would be discontinued. The Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information would also be discontinued, after a final meeting in 1952. It was further decided that all the remaining commissions, with the exception of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, would meet every two years instead of annually as in the past. There was an understanding in the Council that these decisions were trial ones and would be reviewed after further experience had been gained. The questions of the continuance of