

Protocol without reservation as to ratification on December 17, 1953. Twenty-four ratifications or signatures without reservation as to ratification are required before the Convention will be considered a United Nations instrument.

A draft Supplementary Convention, based on the recommendations of the Secretary-General and those of an *Ad Hoc* Committee of experts set up by ECOSOC in 1949, which would extend the provisions of the 1926 Convention to include institutions and practices analogous to slavery, has been circulated to member governments for comment. In a Note of January 18, 1954 to the Secretary-General, the Canadian Government submitted its views stating that it strongly desired the abolition of slavery and the slave trade in all their forms, and saw benefit in the proposal, but considered first, that effective action by governments concerned would be required to eradicate the practices referred to, and second, that in countries like Canada where no slavery or analogous institutions exist, the governments concerned should not be required to take positive action to implement the provisions of the proposed Supplementary Convention, since action would in this case accomplish nothing. It was suggested therefore that such countries should be permitted to make a reservation with respect to the enactment of legislation and the filing of annual returns or, alternatively, that an article or clause should be included to ensure that these provisions would not be binding upon them. Otherwise, owing to the distribution of legislative power in Canada, the implementation of some provisions would create constitutional problems and the Canadian Government would find it difficult to participate in a Supplementary Convention along the lines proposed.

The seventeenth session of ECOSOC adopted two resolutions on slavery on April 29, 1954. One recommended that all states accede to the 1926 Convention and the Protocol and provide further information concerning slavery in their own countries, and appointed Mr. Hans Engen of Norway to prepare a summary of this information for consideration at the nineteenth session. The other invited all governments and the International Labour Organization to submit comments on another draft Supplementary Convention, prepared by the United Kingdom, and on any other drafts that might in future be submitted.

### **Self-Determination of Peoples**

Discussion of the right of peoples to "self-determination" has become a recurring element of United Nations debates on human rights in general, and at its sixth session in 1950, the General Assembly called for the inclusion in the Covenants on Human Rights of an article on the right of peoples to decide their own destiny. The resolution also requested the Commission on Human Rights to prepare recommendations concerning international respect for the self-determination of peoples. The Commission prepared one recommendation that member states administering dependent territories should grant demands for self-government, the popular will being ascertained by plebiscites under United Nations auspices, and another recommendation that these member states should voluntarily submit information on the exercise of self-determination by, and the political