

religion. In a resolution adopted at its first session on December 11, 1946, the General Assembly recommended that all member states which had not already done so, should take steps to implement this Article by granting the same political rights to women as to men.

The Commission on the Status of Women turned its attention to this subject at its first session in February, 1947, and finally produced a draft convention which the Economic and Social Council recommended to the attention of the General Assembly. The General Assembly adopted this convention with some minor modifications at its seventh session by a vote of 46 in favour, none against, and 11 abstentions (the Soviet bloc and some Arab states). It was opened for signature on March 31, 1953, and by June 30 twenty-four countries had signed. There are three operative clauses guaranteeing to women on equal terms with men the right to vote, to hold public office and exercise public functions, and to be eligible for election to public office.

Canada, though in complete sympathy with the objectives of the convention, in common with some other countries where the political rights enumerated have already been substantially accorded, was at first inclined to doubt whether the establishment of a convention would be the best means of furthering the development of political rights for women. But as it became clear during the debates at the seventh session of the General Assembly that a large majority of members considered that such a convention would be an important step in achieving equality of rights for women, the Canadian Delegation voted in favour. Since, however, many of the rights referred to lie within the jurisdiction of the provinces, and since no federal state clause has been included, the Canadian Government has reserved its position regarding signature and ratification.

International Conference on the Limitation of Opium Production

An International Conference on the Limitation of Opium Production was held in New York May 11 - June 18, 1953. Representatives and observers from 41 countries attended the Conference which adopted by a vote of 39 in favour (including Canada) and 2 abstentions the text of a Protocol for Limiting and Regulating the Cultivation of the Poppy Plant, the Production of, International and Wholesale Trade In, and Use of Opium.

Though a detailed statistical check on the consumption of, and trade in, opium and opium products has long been maintained by means of the regular reports rendered to the Permanent Central Opium Board (PCOB), the treaties at present in force do not provide controls over the production of raw opium. The desirability of introducing some form of international control over production has been under study since 1924, and in 1936 the League of Nations Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium and Other Dangerous Drugs recommended that an international conference be called to study the problem. Preparations for this conference, which had been delayed by the war, were resumed by the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 1948.