

present programme of assistance in statistical education and training. It examined a report from a Committee of Experts convened jointly by the Secretary-General, the International Labour Organization and UNESCO on "International Definition and Measurement of Standards and Levels of Living" and asked the Secretary-General to obtain the views of member governments thereon. The Secretary-General was also asked to draw up draft recommendations on methods of preparing population censuses for submission to the Population and Statistical Commissions. Owing to the possibility of a conflict between recommendations of the International Convention on Economic Statistics and those of ECOSOC, he was asked to take the appropriate steps to modify the Convention.

The Commission has assigned high priority to the International Standard Industrial Classification, the Standard International Trade Classification (including the compilation of an index for the latter) and noted that the proposed work in social statistics and on measurement of components of level of living should receive high priority within the resources available.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in April-May 1954, held its annual review of the world narcotics situation including the trade in, and production and consumption of, addiction-producing drugs and the implementation of international narcotics control conventions.¹ The ninth regular session of the 15-member Commission, which met in New York, recommended that the manufacture, import and export of heroin, one of the most dangerous narcotic drugs, be prohibited except for small quantities necessary for scientific purposes. The Commission favoured the prohibition of those synthetic drugs which have no therapeutic advantages over natural drugs. In the struggle against drug addiction, the Commission stressed the humanitarian aspect of the problem and expressed itself in favour of the cure, treatment, and rehabilitation of drug addicts at authorized institutions. The Commission continued its study of a proposed single convention on narcotic drugs ultimately to replace the eight existing multilateral agreements, and also examined the problem of coca leaf chewing. In considering the question of illicit traffic, the Commission expressed the view that illicit trade in drugs could not be combated successfully by national governments alone and that international co-operation was necessary by adoption of the practice of direct communication between national narcotics enforcement authorities. Canada was appointed to the special committee on seizures set up to examine illicit drug traffic and seizure reports submitted by governments.

Regional Economic Commissions

There are three Regional Economic Commissions: the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America, and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.²

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1952-53*, p. 52.

²See *Canada and the United Nations 1952-53*, pp. 55-56.