

from Arbitrary Arrest, Detention and Exile; and, in accordance with the views expressed by the Economic and Social Council, it decided to postpone until next year consideration of draft declarations on the rights of the child and on the right of asylum. By a vote of 17 in favour, none against, with 1 abstention, the Commission recommended that it continue to meet in annual sessions.

### Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The thirteenth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was held at the headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva from April 28 to May 30, 1958. The Canadian Representative, Mr. K. C. Hossick, was elected Vice-President of the Commission and also served as Chairman of the Illicit Traffic Committee, which met three days prior to the Commission's session.

At its thirteenth session the Commission was able to complete its consideration of the proposed single convention which will unify and replace the existing international treaties on narcotic control. The drafting and review of this convention has been the Commission's major task at its past eight sessions and considerable satisfaction was felt at its successful termination. The Commission, and subsequently, the Economic and Social Council, adopted a resolution in which it decided to convene a plenipotentiary conference for the adoption of the convention. The conference will comprise representatives of all states members of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies, as well as representatives of the World Health Organization and other Specialized Agencies interested in the matter of the Permanent Central Opium Board, the Drug Supervisory Body and the International Criminal Police. It is hoped that it will be possible to hold the conference before the end of 1960.

In their reviews of the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, the *ad hoc* committee and the Commission found no conspicuous change from the situation in previous years. In order to strengthen the campaign against the traffic in the Middle East it was decided to establish a special mission to visit governments in areas where the illicit traffic is particularly severe. The mission would first familiarize itself with the situation, in order to be able to discuss and suggest possible improvements in control measures and machinery to governments and to the United Nations. The political situation in the Middle East made it impossible for the mission to visit the area in 1958 but it is hoped that it will be able to do so in the early autumn of 1959.

The United Nations' Programme of Scientific Research, to ascertain the origin of opium seized in the illicit traffic, is of particular interest to Canada. The Canadian Government in its Food and Drug Laboratories carries out an intensive research programme in this field and also offers training facilities for fellows appointed under the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme to become familiar with the techniques evolved in the laboratory so that equivalent laboratories may be established in their own countries.

In 1958 an expert committee was convened to evaluate the methods already in use for determination origin and to decide if they could be considered adequate. The expert committee in its report considered that determination origin is now possible to a limited degree but recommended an intensified programme of research and a wider range of reference data from samples of known origin. The Commission and the Council endorsed these recommendations.

The Commission was gratified to learn that the Government of Afghanistan had adopted a policy to prohibit the cultivation, use and all