

except as new homes can be found for them. We are not anxious to complicate the social and economic pattern of our own community by introducing more persons than we can take care of, but within our means we are endeavouring to respond to appeals which have been made on behalf of these refugees.

Another aspect of the work of the Economic and Social Council that I should like to mention is the subject of human rights which has been considered in the Human Rights Commission and in the Commission on the Status of Women. This is an important subject but it is one in which we cannot hope to make progress rapidly. We believe that there is great value in defining by international agreement as precisely as we possibly can the basic freedoms which the individual should enjoy within society. We are happy to participate in so far-reaching an undertaking, and in this connection I may say that the Parliament of Canada has this year established a special committee to give consideration to this question. During the session of Parliament which has recently ended, this committee met under the chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. J. L. Ilsley, Minister of Justice, who is a member of our delegation. It examined reports from a number of persons, including an official of the United Nations. The work of this special committee is an indication that we are seeking in Canada to give practical expression to our obligations under the Charter of the United Nations.

At the fourth session of the Economic and Social Council, approval was given to the establishment by the Commission on Human Rights of a Sub-commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press. This Sub-Commission was charged with two main functions:

(1) To examine what rights, obligations and practices should be included in the concept of freedom of information and to report to the commission was charged with two main functions: examination; and

(2) To prepare a draft annotated agenda and make proposals concerning preparations for the United Nations Conference on Freedom of Information.

As you well know, the Sub-commission considered that its most urgent duty was to plan for the Conference which has been proposed and to draw up recommendations concerning its agenda. At the fifth session of the Economic and Social Council and in pursuance of Resolution 59(1) of the General Assembly, the Council having considered the report of the Sub-commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press, adopted a resolution which set forth a provisional agenda for the Conference. The Canadian Delegation is satisfied that within the confines of the provisional agenda adopted by the Council for the world Conference on Freedom of Information and of the Press, sufficient scope is given for a full and forthright discussion of the principles which should govern the press in a truly democratic country. The people and the Government of Canada believe that freedom of information and freedom of the press are basic freedoms and are essential for the protection of other freedoms. It is the discussion of this question which is called for in the proposed agenda of the Conference. The delegation of the U.S.S.R. has put forward a resolution revising the agenda. It seems to me, however, that they are attempting to direct our attention to a different problem—that is, the reaction of the