

From time to time, as the Council has thought it necessary, various commissions have been brought into being to serve the regional and functional requirements of the United Nations in the economic, social and cultural fields and in respect of human rights. By the beginning of 1951 there were three regional economic commissions (for Europe, for Latin America, and for Asia and the Far East),<sup>1</sup> and the following functional commissions and sub-commissions:

- (1) Economic, Employment and Development Commission  
(now discontinued)
- (2) Transport and Communications Commission
- (3) Fiscal Commission
- (4) Statistical Commission, with its  
Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling
- (5) Population Commission
- (6) Social Commission
- (7) Commission on Human Rights, with two Sub-Commissions:  
Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of  
the Press (now suspended)  
Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and  
Protection of Minorities (to be suspended after one  
meeting in 1952)
- (8) Commission on the Status of Women
- (9) Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs is composed of representatives of member states of the United Nations. The other commissions are composed of persons who have been nominated by member states which have been elected by the Council to make such nominations. These commissions are, therefore, made up of experts from rather than representatives of member states.

At July 1, 1952 Canadians were serving on the following functional commissions: the Fiscal Commission (term ending December 31, 1952), the Statistical Commission (term ending December 31, 1952), the Social Commission (term ending December 31, 1953), and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (indefinite term). Canada's term on the Economic, Employment and Development Commission concluded at the end of December 1951.

At the eleventh session of the Economic and Social Council in 1950 a resolution was adopted establishing an *ad hoc* committee of eight members, together with the President of the Council, to study the organization and operation of the Council and its Commissions. The committee was asked to report to the thirteenth session of the Council in 1951. All member states were invited to submit their observations and suggestions and, in accordance with this request, the Canadian Government submitted a memorandum which suggested rather radical changes in the organization and operation of the Council and its Commissions.

The memorandum (which was reproduced as United Nations document E/AC.34/7 of March 19, 1951) made the following recommendations concerning the functional commissions. Certain functional commissions of a non-technical character, the memorandum

<sup>1</sup>See pp. 89-92.