

Following the precedents established at the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Assemblies it was decided to set up a sub-committee, composed of the representatives of the Argentine Republic, Belgium, Bolivia, the United Kingdom, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Greece, Iran, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Roumania, Switzerland, Yugoslavia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, to study the various aspects of the refugee problem.

After several days spent in examining the subject in its various aspects it was decided to recommend the co-ordination into a single agency of the League services dealing with refugees, and for this purpose to appoint for a period of five years a High Commissioner with headquarters at London who would report annually to the Assembly. He would receive a salary of 45,000 Swiss francs, approximately \$10,500 per annum, and a grant from the League budget of 224,500 Swiss francs, approximately \$52,000, for administrative expenses.

The task of the High Commissioner would be to provide for the political and legal protection of the two groups of refugees above mentioned (no provision being made for other refugees) and to assist Governments and private organizations in their efforts to promote migration and permanent settlement. While empowered to accept funds from Governments and private sources the High Commissioner would not directly assist refugees but would allot such funds among organizations he considered best qualified to administer assistance. It was also recommended that he would co-operate with the Inter-governmental Committee in London respecting the admission of involuntary emigrants to countries of refuge and settlement.

When the sub-committee's report was submitted to the Sixth Committee the delegate of Norway (M. Koht) drew attention to the lack of provision for refugees other than the groups above mentioned and served notice that Norway reserved the right at a later date to raise the question of placing all political refugees, without distinction of origin, under the protection of the League. Some objection was also raised by the Latvian delegation to the employment of League funds for the remuneration of representatives of the High Commissioner abroad. Yugoslavia, Iran, Bulgaria and Egypt stated that they were not prepared to accept any more refugees. In general, however, the report met with the approval of the main Committee and was adopted unanimously after a short discussion. A few days later Sir Herbert Emerson, a former Governor of the Punjab, was appointed High Commissioner.

### *Mandates*

The Committee, as in previous years, reviewed the action of the Mandatory Powers, in the light of reports of the Mandates Commission, with respect to the territories committed to their charge. The discussion centred once again mainly on Palestine where serious disturbances still continue. Emphasis was laid on the urgent need to solve the problem of the future status of that territory—a problem that is rendered particularly complex by the importance attached, on the one hand, to a National Home for the Jewish populations scattered throughout the world and, on the other, to the safeguarding of the rights of the Arab population.

The representatives of Iraq, Ireland, Egypt and Albania strongly opposed any attempt to deal with the problem by partition.

Mr. Butler (United Kingdom) said he did not wish to reply in detail to the points raised in the discussion because the problem of Palestine was, as a whole, "sub-judice." While his Government favoured partition as the best and most hopeful solution of the problem it was not practical to take a final decision on the future policy regarding Palestine until a report had been received from the Technical Commission appointed to examine the possibilities of partition. In the meantime the Administration was doing all it could to suppress the campaign of terrorism which prevailed since last summer.