

a number of suggestions had been made, the Committee unanimously approved the action proposed and submitted a draft resolution to the Assembly endorsing the Report and requesting the General Committee to take the most appropriate steps for setting up the Central Committee.

The Assembly adopted this Resolution, and the question was duly referred to the General Committee which decided to set up an organizing committee. The organizing committee consists of representatives of Australia, Belgium, the United Kingdom, France, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, Turkey and a Latin American State. It is hoped that the Central Committee on Economic and Social Questions may be constituted early in 1940.

ELECTION OF NON-PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The terms of office of five non-permanent Members of the Council expired during the Assembly. These were Bolivia, China, Latvia, New Zealand and Sweden. Two of the seats, those held by China and Latvia, had been created in 1936 for a provisional term of three years and their renewal required the approval of the Council and Assembly.

In view of the exceptional circumstances, the Assembly decided to suspend for these elections the rule preventing re-election of a retiring Member of the Council without a previous declaration of re-eligibility by the Assembly, and also the rule requiring at least forty-eight hours' notice of all candidatures for seats in the Council and providing that the elections should not take place before the seventh day of the session. The Assembly then proceeded to fill the three regular seats by the election of the Union of South Africa, Finland and Bolivia, the re-election of which was proposed by all the Latin American delegates, and adopted a resolution approving the continuance of two provisional non-permanent seats for a further three years. The Council having concurred in this proposal, the Assembly on December 14 elected Egypt and China to the seats in question.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SESSION

In view of the international situation, the Assembly decided on the proposal of the General Committee not to close its session but simply to adjourn. It also decided that the Secretary-General should be empowered to call together the General Committee of the Assembly, and that the General Committee should have authority to decide any question which the Supervisory Commission and the Secretary-General might submit to it. This proposal was adopted in order to permit major questions to be considered by a fairly representative body if it should not be found possible to hold a meeting of the Assembly or of the Council for a considerable time. The General Committee is composed of representatives of Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Egypt, France, Greece, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

In declaring the Twentieth Assembly adjourned, the President said that delegates had been called to Geneva to take far-reaching and grave decisions; they had not met to pass judgment on any government or system of government, but to consider acts and to relate those acts to the principles of the Covenant; delegates had tried to act upon the principles of law and equity; they would leave the Assembly in grave anxiety for every nation, but with new hope because a Member State had applied to the League for assistance, and had not applied in vain; the development of international solidarity was the only possible road towards better international understanding; the Assembly had performed its task; delegates must hope that, when the Assembly met once more, it would be evident that the feeble efforts which they have made had not been entirely in vain.

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