

COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY FOR EUROPEAN UNION

On the proposal of the General Committee, the Assembly decided to renew, for a further period of one year, the mandate of the Commission of Enquiry for European Union which, since 1930, has been intermittently investigating economic questions of special interest to that Continent, and to place the question on the Agenda of the next Assembly.

THE SITUATION IN EUROPE

Though the Assembly was meeting at the height of the crisis arising from the German ultimatum to Czechoslovakia, no appeal was made to the League to attempt to settle the dispute or to prevent the outbreak of war. The general anxiety caused by the tense situation, however, found many echoes in the Assembly. A draft resolution on the subject was submitted by a number of members for the consideration of the General Committee which directs the work of the Assembly. The Committee met on September 28 and considered the matter, and on the following day the President proposed to the Assembly, on behalf of the Committee, the adoption of the following resolution which met with immediate and unanimous approval:

“Representatives of forty-nine States meeting as delegates to the Assembly of the League of Nations have watched with deep and growing anxiety the development of the present grave situation in Europe.

“The Assembly is convinced that the existing differences are capable of being solved by peaceful means. It knows that recourse to war, whatever be its outcome, is no guarantee of a just settlement, and that it must inevitably bring untold suffering to millions of individuals, and imperil the whole structure of civilization in Europe.

“The Assembly, therefore, voicing the prayer of the peoples of all countries, expresses the earnest hope that no Government will attempt to impose a settlement by force.

“The Assembly welcomes with great satisfaction the action taken by the President of the United States, and fully associates itself with the spirit which inspired it.”

FIRST COMMITTEE

(Legal and Constitutional Questions)

Unification of Private Law. -

In accordance with a resolution of the 1937 Assembly providing that the activities of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law in Rome should be entered each year on the Assembly's Agenda, the First Committee reviewed the work of the Institute during the past year in the light of a report submitted by M. Polychroniadis, delegate of Greece. The report recalling the object of the Institute, which is to work out means of co-ordinating the private law of the various States, and thus gradually preparing the way for the general adoption of uniform legislation in this sphere, outlined the progress made by the Institute during the year in its studies of the legal status of women, international loans, international commercial sales, liability and insurance of motorists, execution abroad of maintenance obligations and protection of intellectual rights.

In the course of the discussion, the Chairman expressed the Committee's gratitude to the Belgian Government for calling a Conference to deal with the revision of the Berne Convention on Authors' Rights to be held in Brussels in 1939.