

that they do not consider themselves bound to apply economic or financial measures and asking the Assembly to communicate to all Members of the League the statements made on this Article by the various delegations which took part in the discussion.

(c) *Separation of the Covenant from the Treaties of Peace*

For many years past consideration has been given to the desirability of separating the Covenant from the Treaty of Versailles, and other treaties terminating the Great War, in each of which it was incorporated. It was hoped thereby to remove the resentment felt in Germany and certain other countries against an institution so closely linked with their defeat, and to eliminate expressions in the Covenant which might contribute to estrange or induce certain States to hold aloof from the League. The question was referred by the last Assembly to a Committee of Jurists who, after studying the matter in detail, drew up a draft Protocol, the text of which was communicated to Members of the League, setting forth the formal amendments in the text of the Covenant which would be necessary to separate it from the treaties in which it was incorporated and give it a separate and independent existence. As there was a general desire to make this gesture of conciliation and as no question of principle was involved, but only one of form, the Jurists' proposal was adopted by the Committee almost without discussion.

(d) *Collaboration between the League and Non-Member States*

In recent years it has become increasingly clear that the realization of universal membership, one of the ideals of the League since its establishment, is a matter of great difficulty. Indeed, the trend of events appears to be leading rather to withdrawals from the League than to accessions to it. As the chances of obtaining the substantial universality assumed in the Covenant and necessary to the effective working of the League appear more and more remote the question of collaboration with Non-Member States becomes of special importance. A good deal of technical and non-political collaboration has been carried on with Non-Member States in recent years. With a view to further increasing and extending this technical and non-political collaboration between the League and Non-Member States, the United Kingdom delegation proposed a draft resolution asking Non-Member States for any suggestions they might feel disposed to make in order to bring about a wider development of such technical and non-political collaboration. The proposal was adopted by the Committee without discussion.

*International Assistance to Refugees.*

The problem of caring for refugees, which has occupied a prominent place in the activities of the League since its establishment in 1920, was again considered by the Sixth Committee. Earlier Assemblies, meeting in more favourable circumstances, had taken steps to liquidate, as from December 31, 1938, the two organizations established under the League to deal with refugees, namely, the Nansen International Office, assisting Russian, Assyrian, Armenian, Chaldean and Turkish refugees and those from the Saar, and the Office of the High Commissioner for refugees coming from Germany, including the territory formerly known as Austria. But while steps had thus been taken to wind up the League organizations for dealing with refugees, the refugee problem had not disappeared but had, on the contrary, become greater than ever. It was necessary, therefore, to provide for continuing the work of assistance and to arrange for establishing close co-operation with the Inter-governmental Committee recently set up at London, on the initiative of President Roosevelt, for the purpose of facilitating the emigration of political refugees from Germany and Austria.