Contributions in Arrears

During the general discussion which took place in the Fourth Committee, various delegates drew attention, with reference to the League's present financial situation, to the contributions in arrears.

This question was studied by a special sub-committee which submitted a confidential report. Upon receiving this report, the committee, after noting with interest and regret that a certain number of States had not fulfilled their financial obligations to the League, requested the Assembly to make an appeal to all the States Members to pay up their contributions in arrears without delay and urged the Secretary-General to continue to make every effort to recover these arrears.

Budget for 1933

As the delegations had had an opportunity to express their views and formulate their suggestions regarding the expenditure of the League, the examination of the budget was not preceded by a further general discussion. When the estimates for the Health Section were under consideration, the Secretary-General, replying to an observation, pointed out that the activities of that section were based on a special Article of the Covenant and that the work it had undertaken was of great importance, particularly in the case of certain overseas countries which derived no direct benefit from the political activities of the League.

The committee approved the budget of the League of Nations for the year 1933 amounting to 33,429,132 Swiss francs and distributed as follows:—

Secretariat and Special Organizations of the League	17,322,459
International Labour Office	8,851,972
Permanent Court of International Justice	2,660,196
International Nansen Office for Refugees	297,763
Buildings at Geneva	2,034,659
Pensions	1,829,906
Working Capital Fund	432,177
Total	33,429,132

It should be noted that, in spite of the credits for the Disarmament Conference and a fresh credit of 435,900 francs for purposes of the World Monetary and Economic Conference, the 1933 budget shows a reduction of more than 200,000 francs compared with that of 1932.

Allocation of Expenses

It was suggested that in preparing the new draft scale for submission to the 1934 Assembly the Committee on Allocation of Expenses should take account of the items of the national budgets connected with international relations with special reference to the amounts budgeted for foreign affairs, national defence, and political and commercial propaganda.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Allocation of Expenses undertook to bring these suggestions to the notice of the committee.