

Budget for 1934

The general budget of the League for 1934 amounted, when submitted to the Assembly, to 30,643,905 francs, a reduction of 8.3 per cent as compared with that for the previous year.

The budget of the Secretariat was 15,708,261 francs, a reduction of 9.3 per cent over 1933.

Several delegates thought the estimates of the League were too high; that all countries had reduced their budgets, and that public opinion demanded that the League should accentuate its efforts in this direction, provided that its essential activities were not unduly curtailed. This attitude was supported by the Canadian delegation and by the various delegations representing the other nations of the British Commonwealth.

The Fourth Committee accepted the proposal of the Second Committee that a supplementary credit of 336,000 francs should be inserted in the budget for the work of the Monetary and Economic Conference.

The supplementary credit of 10,000 francs proposed by the Sixth Committee for the Committee on Arts and Letters was carried by a majority vote. The majority expressed the opinion that the League should do all in its power to bring together, under its aegis, scientists and men of letters for the purpose of promoting the work of moral disarmament.

With regard to the proposal which he had made to reduce the budget by 150,000 francs, the Secretary-General said that in consultation with the Supervisory Commission he would decide to which items the reductions would apply. This method of reducing the budget should not be regarded as a precedent, but as quite exceptional.

As adopted by the Fourth Committee and the Assembly, the budget for 1934 is as follows:—

	Francs
Secretariat and Special Organizations	15,892,161
International Labour Organization	8,257,876
Permanent Court of International Justice	2,538,827
Nansen International Office for Refugees	300,000
Buildings at Geneva	2,000,000
Pensions	1,838,941
Total	30,827,805

Rationalization

A long discussion arose on the question of the activities of the League. The majority thought that the Fourth Committee was not competent to make recommendations on the question of present activities and that it should warn the Assembly that further extension of the commitments of the League might result in financial difficulties. It was the desire of the Canadian delegate and clearly the general desire of the Committee that economies should be made, but that they should be reasonable and should not interfere with the essential work of the League.

The Committee adopted the Supervisory Commission's proposals with regard to the reorganization of the Information Section. While recognizing the necessity for reducing the personnel of the Section, stress was laid on the importance of not depriving the Press of effective contact with the Secretariat. The Honourable Philippe Roy took the view that the Section should be able to remain in contact also with countries which were not permanently represented among the journalists at Geneva.