

aid if France, loyal to its obligations, would render similar assistance, and had proposed that the whole question be brought before the League with the object of mobilizing public opinion and of ascertaining the position of other States whose passive aid might be extremely valuable. Unfortunately, he said, no effect had been given to this proposal but other steps had been taken which led to such a capitulation as is bound sooner or later to have incalculable and disastrous consequences.

The grave situation in the Far East was again brought to the attention of the Assembly by Mr. Wellington Koo, who described the staggering losses of life and property caused by the Japanese invasion and asked the League, on behalf of China: first, to apply forthwith Article XVII of the Covenant and, consequently, to invite Japan to accept the obligations of membership in the League for the purposes of its dispute with China; secondly, to implement the various resolutions of the Assembly and of the Council by recommending an embargo against Japan—the aggressor state—of arms, munitions, aeroplanes, oil and essential raw materials for its war industry as well as of financial credits for its war coffers, and by adopting measures of financial and material aid to China; thirdly, to take effective measures to deter Japan from continuing to apply such barbarous methods of warfare as the use of poison gas and the indiscriminate bombing of undefended towns and civilian populations. One of the essential steps to be taken for this last purpose was the despatch by the League of a commission of neutral observers to collect facts, investigate the situation on the different war fronts, and report to the League for consideration.

The delegates of Iraq and Egypt drew the attention of the Assembly to the situation in Palestine and Syria and expressed the hope that the Mandatory Powers would find means to satisfy the legitimate demands of the Arabs.

The Latin-American delegates expressed the satisfaction of their Governments at the pacific settlement of the Chaco dispute and at the success of the mission which the Secretary-General had sent to their countries during the past year.

At the close of the general discussion Senor Negrin, Prime Minister of Spain, came to the platform and submitted an unexpected proposal. The Spanish Government, he said, wishing to contribute to the *détente* which all desired, and being determined to remove every pretext for calling in question the national character of the Republican cause, had just decided on the "immediate and complete withdrawal of all the non-Spanish combatants engaged in fighting in Spain on the Government's side." He announced that the Spanish Government had decided to ask the League of Nations to set up immediately an international commission for the purpose of making any investigations and enquiries it might consider necessary in order to satisfy the League, and through it world opinion, that this decision of withdrawal was being fully carried out. The Assembly decided to place the question raised by the Spanish delegation on its Agenda, and to refer it for consideration to the Sixth Committee.

ELECTION OF NON-PERMANENT MEMBERS TO THE COUNCIL

The three non-permanent seats on the Council, made vacant by the retirement of Ecuador, Poland and Roumania on the expiration of their three years' term of office, were filled on September 21 by the election of Greece, Yugoslavia and the Dominican Republic. Poland did not stand for re-election as on previous occasions.

ELECTION OF A JUDGE TO THE PERMANENT COURT

The election of a judge to the Permanent Court of International Justice, to fill the vacancy left by the death of Mr. Hammarskjöld (Swedish) was held on September 26. The Assembly, in agreement with the Council, elected Mr. Rafael W. Erich of Finland, who has had a long and distinguished career as a jurist and diplomat.