

In opposition to this view, it was pointed out that, besides the obvious administrative disadvantages involved in such a division of responsibility, the system proposed would practically amount to reserving the highest posts in the Secretariat for nationals of States permanently represented on the Council. The proposal for an Advisory Committee was rejected by 30 votes to 5. The majority of the Committee of Thirteen proposed the creation of five new posts of Under-Secretary-General; and during the discussion in the Fourth Committee a further proposal was made for the abolition of the post of Under-Secretary-General. The Committee therefore recommended that a special Committee should be appointed to study the whole question and submit a report to be discussed at the next Assembly.

As regards the duration of appointments, the Committee of Thirteen agreed on the principle of permanency for posts below that of Member of Section, and considered that appointments to the highest posts should not be permanent. The majority of the Committee approved the principle of permanency for Chiefs of Section and Members of Section, but did not exclude the possibility of temporary appointments in certain circumstances. The minority recommended for these posts appointments of limited duration, with the possibility of renewal. The Fourth Committee decided that provision should be made in future for indeterminate contracts for Chiefs of Section and Members of Section, but that the Secretary General should have power to engage temporary officials. Such indeterminate contracts may be terminated not only when the official reaches the age-limit (normally 60) but also in the case of misconduct or inefficiency or as a result of reorganization of the service.

The dissatisfaction which has long been prevalent with regard to the method of appointment that has resulted in an overwhelming preponderance of French, English, German and Italian nationals on the staff of the Secretariat found definite expression this year in two proposals. One by the Delegation of the Irish Free State, providing that, as a general rule, there should not be more than one national of any State among the higher officials and the successor of any of these officials should not be a national of the same State, was referred to the special Committee. The other, put forward by the Cuban Delegation, to the effect that a State's contribution to the expenses of the League should be calculated on the basis of the number of its nationals employed by the League, was rejected by the Fourth Committee.

The Committee adopted a proposed new text for the Staff Regulations emphasizing the international status of the staff and their duties, and their independence of instructions from any authority external to the Secretariat.

It was decided that henceforth every official above a certain rank, other than the Secretary-General, should be required, before entering upon his duties, to give a solemn written undertaking to exercise the functions entrusted to him "in all loyalty, discretion and conscience". The Secretary-General should make a similar declaration before the Council.

It was agreed that the existing prohibition of the acceptance of honours or decorations from Governments except for services rendered before appointment should be maintained, and that the Staff Regulations should forbid officials, while holding office, to become candidates for political offices in their own countries.

The Committee approved the conclusions of the Committee of Thirteen relating to the recruiting of the staff of the First Division (chiefs of section, members of section, and interpreters, translators and précis-writers). These included recommendations that recruitment should as a rule be by competitive examination or selection, preference being given (provided their qualifications are equal) to candidates already on the staff, and attention being paid to the fair representation of the various nationalities; the provision of the Covenant that both sexes have equal rights should be strictly observed; the minimum age for appointment should be 23 and the maximum 35, subject to exceptions in special cases.