

Thirteen and in the Fourth Committee of the Assemblies of the two previous years, and which had resulted in the temporary maintenance of the *status quo*.

Those who advocated the abolition of the posts of Under-Secretary-General argued that it was the best way of removing a certain atmosphere of dissatisfaction due to the fact that all the higher posts of the Secretariat were occupied by nationals of the Members permanently represented on the Council, and that public opinion noted an inconsistency between this kind of monopoly and the principle of the equality of States.

Those in favour of increasing the number of posts of Under-Secretary-General claimed that it would thereby be possible to give representation in the higher ranks of the Secretariat to other geographical groups in addition to those now represented. It would give the ablest officials of the League a better prospect of promotion and stimulate a higher standard of recruitment.

Those, again, who were in favour of maintaining the *status quo* argued that, in view of the imminent changes among the principal officers of the Secretariat, it was particularly unwise at the present moment to modify the existing structure.

In order to reconcile these opposing views and to achieve the unanimity which was so highly desirable, a text was finally adopted which reads as follows:—

The Assembly:

Once more affirms the principle that the holders of the highest posts of the Secretariat up to that of Secretary-General should, like all the officials of the League of Nations, be chosen for their abilities, their personal qualifications and the contribution they can make to the performance of the tasks of the League of Nations.

To facilitate the application of this principle and in order to give the Members which are not permanently represented on the Council a larger share in the responsibilities developing on the principal officers of the Secretariat, it decides that there shall be two posts of Deputy-Secretary-General. This would make it possible to assign one of these posts to a national of a Member not permanently represented on the Council in the event of the Secretary-General having been chosen from among the nationals of Members permanently represented on the Council.

The sub-committee agreed that the text should be interpreted as meaning (a) that, should the Secretary-General be a national of a Member permanently represented on the Council, the Deputy-Secretary-General having precedence should be a national of a Member not permanently represented; and (b) that only if the Secretary-General were a national of a Member not permanently represented on the Council could both Deputy-Secretaries-General be nationals of Members permanently represented.

The sub-committee further agreed that the summary of the discussion prepared by the Rapporteur should constitute the official minutes of the sub-committee, and should be available for the use of the Secretary-General, the Council, and any States Members desiring to consult it.

The sub-committee decided to retain three posts of Under-Secretary-General and to consider the Legal Adviser, the character of whose post is non-political, as holding the rank of an Under-Secretary-General.

It also decided that the Secretary-General should be appointed for ten years, the Deputy-Secretaries-General for eight years, and the Under-Secretaries-General for seven years, and that the appointment of the Secretary-