

in respect of arrears had been made since the session opened and a further six delegations stated on behalf of their governments their intention to pay arrears in the near future.

Staff Questions

Before the session began the Secretary-General had notified all members of the Secretariat that their contracts would terminate on the 31st July. (It is the intention to re-engage on a temporary basis those officials whose services are required in connection with the liquidation). The Assembly approved the payment of special indemnities to certain classes of officials not entitled to indemnities under their contracts; these special indemnities will be based on length of service and salary received and are intended to assist the employees concerned in establishing themselves in other occupations.

The Assembly decided not to give effect to certain judgments of the Administrative Tribunal, a body set up to pass upon claims relating to contracts and conditions of service of members of the Secretariat and I.L.O., which would have had the effect of substantially increasing the indemnities paid early in the war to certain officials. The contracts of these officials had been terminated pursuant to a resolution of the Assembly of 1939 because of the necessity of reducing staff and effecting economies in the period of the emergency. The Assembly also decided that no further action was required in connection with claims made by a few employees of the Governing Commission of the Saar territory before its incorporation in Germany.

In 1940, shortly after the Franco-German Armistice, the Secretary-General, Mr. Joseph Avenol, presented his resignation and since that date Mr. Sean Lester had acted as Secretary-General. No previous opportunity had arisen of confirming Mr. Lester in his appointment and the Assembly decided that Mr. Lester should be confirmed from the date of Mr. Avenol's resignation. Many tributes were paid to the work of Mr. Lester during the war in maintaining the structure and reduced functions of the Secretariat in the midst of the gravest difficulties. It is the intention that he should continue in office until the work of liquidation is completed within a few months.

Pensions Fund

The Staff Pensions Fund was established to cover members of the Secretariat, the International Labour Office and officials of the Permanent Court. In order that the League should fulfil all its contractual obligations, it was necessary to make provision for the continuation of the Fund for the benefit of those already in receipt of pensions and of those currently contributing to the Fund. At