

nothing to add to the declarations which were then made, it being understood that they were opposed to any extension of the Council resolution of June 13, 1929.

Senator Beaubien, the Canadian representative on the Sixth Committee, pointed out that the minority question was not an exclusively European one and that it had effects in distant countries, among others in Canada where there were considerable minorities faithfully attached to their countries of origin. The Canadian delegate maintained the view previously taken up on this question. While expressing satisfaction with the progress accomplished he considered that there was room for considerable improvement in procedure. The Canadian delegation considered that a Permanent Consultative Committee might render useful service in this connection.

The delegate of Spain, after emphasizing the psychological side of the minorities problem, drew attention to the fact that his country was now engaged in settling the Catalan problem in accordance with the principles enunciated by the League of Nations.

#### *Mandates*

The work in connection with mandates forms one of the most important tasks entrusted to the League. It consists in supervising the administration of the mandated territories, and noting how far and by what means the mandatory Powers are performing the task entrusted to them of helping those countries, which might be described as minors, and educating them in preparation for independence.

The object of the institution of mandates is, in the case at least of A Mandates, the eventual acquisition of independence, and this year the problem has arisen in the case of Irak of determining under what conditions a country should be recognized as having reached the stage in its development at which it can cease to be a mandated territory and acquire independence.

The Permanent Mandates Commission studied this question with great thoroughness, and the Sixth Committee expressed its appreciation of its work. In the conditions defined by the Mandates Commission, the Council now possesses a criterion for determining, in individual cases, whether a country is ready to pass from the status of a mandated territory to that of independence.

Like the Mandates Commission, the Sixth Committee considered that the emancipation of the territories covered by Article 22 of the Covenant should be made dependent on the fulfilment of certain *de facto* conditions, and on the existence of certain guarantees stipulated in the interests both of the territories concerned and of the international community. The guarantees relating to the safeguarding of the rights of foreigners, the effective protection of racial, linguistic and religious minorities and the maintenance of the principle of economic equality were, in the Sixth Committee's opinion, of quite special importance.

The Sixth Committee was also concerned with the development of the public health services in the mandated territories. It expressed the opinion that the recommendations put forward in this connection by the Mandates Commission seemed likely to contribute largely to the success of the work of civilization undertaken in the mandated territories under the auspices of the League of Nations.

Lastly, the Sixth Committee noted that order had not again been disturbed in Palestine since the regrettable incidents of 1929, and associated itself with the hope expressed by the Mandates Commission that the efforts made by the Mandatory Power to facilitate the establishment of a Jewish National Home without infringing the rights of the Arab population would be crowned with success.