30. PREVENTION OF IMMIGRATION LIKELY TO DISTURB FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES

The question of immigration likely to disturb friendly relations between States was placed on the agenda of the General Assembly by Egypt, Iraq and Lebanon. The resolution introduced by these countries recalled the Assembly's decision of 1946 condemning racial and religious discrimination and charged that groups of self-appointed committees and organizations were interfering with the task being discharged by the Preparatory Commission for the International Refugee Organization. The resolution proposed that Member States should cease aiding such organizations and that the General Assembly should recommend the principle that population movements which might affect friendly relations should take place only with the consent of the state or peoples directly involved.

The resolution went on to propose that the Economic and Social Council should immediately call an international conference to expedite a solution of the refugee problem through the I.R.O. The concern of these Near Eastern countries with the problem of immigration arose directly from their opposition to the movement of refugee Jews to Palestine. The United States representative suggested that since the Palestine question was being discussed in another committee of the Assembly, it would be inappropriate for the Social Committee to adopt any resolution on this subject. This view was not acceptable to the Arab States.

In the debate, the Soviet Union and certain other east European states proposed that all obstructions to the repatriation of displaced persons should be removed and that Member States should cease recruiting displaced persons from other countries. The United Kingdom proposed that the Assembly should recommend that Member States adopt urgent measures to settle a fair share of displaced persons in their countries and report what action had been taken with respect to a similar recommendation approved by the General