

certain of the main recommendations submitted by the Press organizations in the course of the enquiry conducted by the League into the means of preventing the spread of false information which might threaten to disturb the peace of the world and the good understanding between nations.

The Committee noted the results of the Madrid Conference and expressed the hope that the proposed enquiries into the technical and financial means of putting an end to the spread of false news and in regard to the correction of false news appearing in the Press might prove successful. The Council was requested to authorize the Secretary-General to facilitate the preparation for and organization of the next Press Conference by lending the services of the appropriate sections of the League Secretariat, if such services were desired by the Government convening the Conference.

#### *Assistance for Refugees Coming from Germany*

A statement was made to the Committee by the representative of the United Kingdom on the work of assistance which the 1933 Assembly initiated for refugees coming from Germany. It appeared from that statement that a large measure of assistance had been given through private organizations without any charge on public funds, while great progress had been made with the constructive task of settlement. Over one million pounds had been raised, chiefly in the United States and in the United Kingdom. The 25,000 francs advanced by the League to cover the initial expenditure had been repaid.

The Committee thanked the United Kingdom delegate for his statement and decided to communicate its congratulations to the High Commissioner for Refugees for the splendid results achieved.

### FOURTH COMMITTEE

#### (Administrative and Budgetary Questions)

##### *Financial Position of the League*

The general discussion on the financial position of the League, including the International Labour Office and the Permanent Court, was inaugurated by statements from the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Supervisory Commission. The Committee was gratified to learn that, since the 1933 Assembly, the financial situation of the League had much improved. Not only had it been possible to close the year 1933 with a surplus, but, should nothing unforeseen hamper the efforts to economize, it should be possible to balance the accounts for the current financial period. On September 8th, 74 per cent of the 1934 Budget had been received, as compared with 57·8 per cent of the 1933 Budget on October 6th, 1933. Further, while in September of last year both the International Labour Office and the Permanent Court of International Justice were indebted to the Working Capital Fund, such advances as had been made to these organizations in 1933 and 1934 had been repaid or will be covered by appropriating for the purpose part of the 1933 surplus.

There was much less criticism this year than for several years past respecting the practice of "over-budgeting." The Committee realized that, if contributions were regularly paid, it would not be necessary to ask for larger credits than were required for the actual expenditure of the League. It generally shared the opinion of the Supervisory Commission that the various proposals which had been suggested, to ensure that the League's income would more closely correspond to budgeted expenditure, would clearly lead to even greater inconvenience than the present system; that the only remedy for the present unsatisfactory position lay in the solution of the question of contributions in arrears; and that the general principles hitherto followed in estimating should continue to apply.