

ANNEX B

EXTRACTS FROM ADDRESS MADE BY MR. HUME WRONG DURING THE DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT OF THE ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL ON APRIL 10, 1946

In reading the report of the Acting Secretary-General, one cannot fail to be impressed by the extent and variety of the work which was accomplished in spite of all difficulties during the war by the League organizations both here and abroad. In the opening paragraphs of his report, to which several other speakers have already referred, Mr. Lester has recorded with eloquence and clarity the tragedy of the breach of the Covenant. Catastrophe came upon the world; nevertheless the League was kept alive and has been able to carry on a surprising range of useful activities.

Canada has been one of the small group of States Members of the League of Nations which by paying their full contributions as they fell due have persistently shown their belief that the League must survive through the years of war. The alternative was to let the League die from lack of nourishment, so that it would have disappeared in fact before any steps had been taken to create a new international organization to which the torch lighted here in Geneva could be passed. The decision of the Governments which maintained their support of the League during the war—and it was not always an easy decision, in the midst of the overwhelming pressures and demands of the war—has been amply justified by events.

It was not, however, the technical activities of the Secretariat during the war, valuable though these were, that provided the real justification for keeping the League in being until to-day. If the League had been allowed to die from neglect, it would have been considerably more difficult from both the material and the moral point of view to establish the United Nations. The United Nations organization is not the legal heir of the League, but it is its moral successor; and the States Members of the League who have taken a share in the foundation of the United Nations have not only drawn on an ample heritage of experience from Geneva but have felt that they had themselves a debt to pay and a cause to redeem.

This is not an occasion for lamentation or excuse. It is not an occasion for regrets for past errors or for expressions of confidence that the nations of the world have profited from experience. It is