

At the session of 1939, held after the outbreak of war, it had appeared unlikely that it would be possible to hold regular meetings of the Assembly or the Council during the course of hostilities. Provision was therefore then made by an Assembly resolution for the conduct of the affairs of the League without the necessity of calling the Assembly into annual session. This was done by vesting in the Supervisory Commission special powers to take, in its discretion, any administrative or financial measures or decisions which might appear to be necessary, acting in association with the Secretary-General and the Director of the International Labour Office.

The Supervisory Commission was a body of seven members elected by the Assembly to make recommendations on financial and administrative questions. During the war the Commission was able to meet regularly at least once a year, although it had to resort to the co-option of additional members to ensure the presence of a quorum at its meetings. Acting in place of the Assembly, it approved and presented to the States Members the Annual Budgets of the League for the years 1941 to 1946 inclusive. Apart from the Secretariat and the various agencies of the International Labour Organization, it was the only agency of the League which operated actively throughout the war.

The Supervisory Commission had been authorized in 1945 by States Members to undertake negotiations with the United Nations on their behalf, and it met in London with a committee appointed by the United Nations Preparatory Commission early in 1946. The "Common Plan" drawn up by these two bodies was approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations in February. It formed the basis for most of the principal decisions taken by the League Assembly at this Session. The text of this plan is reproduced in the first annex to this Report. In addition, the Supervisory Commission presented detailed proposals to the Assembly for the winding up of the League.

DISCUSSION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT

A score of delegates took part in the discussion of the Secretary-General's Report in Plenary Sessions of the Assembly. All were hopeful that the United Nations would carry on the work begun by the League. The theme of many of the speeches is contained in the Report of the Secretary-General, a paragraph of which was quoted in the Assembly by the delegate of Uruguay:—

"The new generation of builders and makers must not be misled into thinking that any defect in the ideals or organiza-