

be decided in regard to the scheme for closer co-operation between Tanganyika, Kenya, and Uganda before such decision became operative.

Certain members of the Committee considered that the work of the Mandates Commission should prove useful to colonial administrations in dealing with non-mandated territories.

The general impression received from the Sixth Committee's survey of the working of the mandates system was favourable and reassuring.

Slavery

Reports relating to the progress of ratifications of the Slavery Convention of 1926, and the measures taken to secure the progressive abolition of slavery and conditions analogous thereto, were submitted to the Sixth Committee.

From these reports it appeared that since the previous Assembly four States have ratified or acceded to the Convention, bringing the total number of ratifications or accessions to 34, while seven more are expected shortly.

The British Government submitted, in a new form, the proposal which it made last year, and on which the Assembly then postponed any decision, for the creation of a new temporary Commission on Slavery. It now suggested the setting up of a permanent Commission and an International Slavery Office.

It was explained by the British delegate that the duties of the proposed permanent Commission would not involve any supervision over the territories of any State, but would be to assist in the examination of communications received on the subject of slavery, and to make reports on them to the Council of the League, and to take any other action under the instructions of the Council. The International Slavery Office, which would be under the control of the Commission, would be concerned with the collection, on a confidential footing of information with regard to slavery.

In support of this proposal it was contended that the Secretariat was not equipped for the sort of inquiry in question or for dealing with the large and complicated mass of information involved. The sole object was to secure that the terms of the Slavery Convention should be carried out as completely as possible.

On the other hand, several delegates argued that the proposal would inevitably involve a form of supervision over the territories of certain States, and thus infringe national sovereignty. Attention was also called to the cost which would be entailed, and to the undesirability of adding new and not wholly indispensable organs to the already complicated structure of the League.

In view of the strong opposition to the British resolution, the Committee adopted by 11 votes to 6 a resolution submitted by the Portuguese delegation; this resolution recognized that the information furnished by Governments had not so far been complete, but postponed until next year the consideration of any change in the procedure now in force, and in the meantime invited Governments to supply "all such particulars as may assist the Assembly to form an idea not only of the conditions that prevail in their own territories but of the present general position in regard to slavery."

The Assembly endorsed this resolution. Lord Cecil, in announcing that the British delegation would abstain from voting on a proposal which merely meant further postponement of decisive action, expressed his opinion that there were still at least 5,000,000 slaves in the world.

Refugees

The Chairman paid a tribute to the memory of Dr. Nansen, who died in May, 1930. The Sixth Committee also proposed to the Assembly the adoption of a resolution expressing its gratitude for Dr. Nansen's work on behalf of the refugees.