

Referring to the German view regarding ethnical nationality or "Volkstum," Senator Bérenger (France) pointed out that many nations, such as the Swiss, were composed of several races. As to whether Jews were a minority, Jews themselves were not in agreement. The French and German Jews had long considered themselves assimilated by the tradition of a century of liberalism, but, in fact, there was a minority when there was a legal discrimination. The Jewish minority was created by directing discrimination against it. In conclusion, Senator Bérenger proposed the resolution which was finally adopted by the Sixth Committee.

M. Rappard said that Switzerland hoped that the future would not be characterized by a policy tending to make political and linguistic frontiers coincide where geography, history and, above all, the will of the people were opposed to it.

The Honourable R. J. Manion pointed out that in Canada friction had been removed by toleration, by justice to all classes, by mutual understanding, by an unfettered Press and particularly by free parliamentary institutions. Canada had largely settled her minority questions. She believed in two principles—respect for what M. Briand called the "sacred rights" of minorities, and the duty of minorities to be loyal and faithful citizens. He realized that conditions in Europe were different from those in Canada. In Europe, boundaries had been changed and groups of people placed under a different sovereignty. On the other hand, the people who had come from other parts of the world to Canada had accepted Canadian sovereignty and Canadian laws. As a result, the inhabitants of Canada to-day were united under the same sovereignty and devoted to the same ideals, and yet were diverse in race and culture.

The Sixth Committee adopted the following resolutions:—

1. The Assembly, reiterating the recommendation which it passed on September 21, 1922, expresses the hope that the States which are not bound by legal obligations to the League with respect to minorities will nevertheless observe in the treatment of their own racial, religious or linguistic minorities at least as high a standard of justice and toleration as is required by any of the treaties and by the regular action of the Council.
2. The Assembly considers that the principles expounded in resolution 1, which reaffirms the recommendation of 1922, must be applied without exception to all classes of nationals of a State that differ from the majority of the population in race, language or religion.
3. The Assembly requests the Secretary-General to inform the Council of the discussion that has taken place in the Sixth Committee on the question of minorities as a whole.

When the resolutions were being adopted, Herr von Keller said that he accepted the first and third draft resolutions. He added that his delegation was, on the other hand, not in a position to associate itself with the interpretation given to resolution No. 2. The resolution, in his opinion, could only be applied to minorities properly so-called, but there was a tendency in the discussions of the Sixth Committee to interpret the second resolution as concerned with the treatment of the Jews in Germany. This would be contrary to the principles which he had set forth in his remarks before the Committee.

Mandates

As in previous years, the Sixth Committee had before it the annual reports of the mandatory Powers, the reports of the Permanent Mandates Commission and other documents relating to the execution of Article 22 of the Covenant during the past year.