

on the Government side had already been withdrawn and gave assurance that the duties of the League Commission would be confined solely to verification of the facts.

The French representative, M. Bibié, warmly welcomed the Spanish proposal and stated that his Government was prepared to give it its whole-hearted adhesion provided there was no interference with the Non-Intervention Committee. A number of other delegations took a similar stand. M. Litvinoff (U.S.S.R.), while favouring the proposal, took advantage of the occasion to review, in outspoken terms, the activities of the Non-Intervention Committee up to the present time.

The delegates of Albania, Poland and Portugal, however, were critical of the proposal, and were joined on the following day by the Hungarian delegate. They took the view that the question ought to be left to the Non-Intervention Committee and that the League should take no action.

Mr. Butler (United Kingdom) later intervened with a suggestion that the Committee, instead of voting on Senor Negrin's resolution, which could not secure unanimous support, should request the Council to consider the proposal, taking into account the expressions of opinion advanced during the discussion. This proposal was promptly accepted by the Spanish delegate, and was adopted by the Committee in the form of a draft recommendation that the Council would take under consideration the Spanish proposal in the light of the discussion in the Committee.

The Situation in Spain

The Committee went on to consider briefly the general situation in Spain, particularly with reference to the question of securing a peaceful settlement of the conflict. M. Koht, delegate of Norway, referred to the resolution adopted by the Committee at its meeting last year but which had subsequently been defeated in the Assembly itself by the votes of Albania and Portugal.

The first seven paragraphs of this resolution, he pointed out, had dealt with the policy of non-intervention in the Spanish conflict, but the eighth paragraph had merely been a request to the Council, in view of the provisions of Article XI of the Covenant, to follow the situation in Spain and to seize any opportunity for encouraging a solution of the conflict. He suggested that this paragraph might now be adopted as a separate Assembly resolution.

In the course of the brief discussion which followed, Mr. Butler (United Kingdom) raised the objections that the Covenant had not been drawn up with an eye to civil war, and that the application of Article XI to the Spanish situation presented special difficulties when one of the contending parties was a Government not recognized by most of the Members of the League. He fully agreed with the spirit of the Norwegian proposal but suggested that the Committee should merely express the hope that the two sides in Spain might come to a satisfactory settlement.

Senor de Azcarate, delegate of Spain, in reply, pointed out that the conflict in Spain was an internal struggle which had never been referred to the League of Nations by the Spanish Government. The one question brought before the League had been that of foreign intervention in the struggle, and the League had only been invited to collaborate in eliminating from a purely Spanish conflict the foreign elements which had intervened; the intervention of the League as a mediatory body was neither sought nor desired. The Norwegian delegate then withdrew his proposal in favour of a recommendation merely drawing the Council's attention to the discussion on this question.