

No one suggested that the Madrid procedure, which was an improvement on the former procedure, should be altered for the time being. It was generally recognized that the period that has elapsed since its adoption was not long enough to allow of a final judgment based on experience. But opinions differed as to whether the Council has authority to alter that procedure without the consent of all the States which are bound by the minority treaties. D

Hopes were expressed that care will at least be taken to use to the full all the possibilities inherent in the Madrid resolutions, more especially as regards the composition of the Committees of Three or Five, the frequency of their meetings, the publicity of the proceedings, and the report to be made to the Council, which must be such as to enable its members to gain an accurate idea of the cases with which they have to deal.

Suggestions were made that the Secretary-General should lay before the Assembly in the Annual Report a survey, as detailed as possible, of the League's work in connection with minorities.

The German delegate expressed the hope that the conditions laid down for the receivability of petitions addressed to the League may be interpreted as liberally as possible, and the Delegate of Hungary stressed the necessity of affording complainants an opportunity of submitting their observations at all stages in the procedure.

The question of setting up a Permanent Minorities Commission was again raised but did not receive very strong support, the States parties to minority treaties insisting, as a condition of the setting up of such a Commission, that all States should be brought within its competence.

Certain general ideas were brought out in the course of this debate. The first of these is that minority questions must in no case be used to undermine the unity and integrity of States. The second is that minority questions are intimately bound up with peace, and must consequently be the object of vigilant and indefatigable attention on the part of the League. The third is that violence, whether on the part of the minorities or of the countries to which they belong, should not be used.

All the speakers, even though upholding different views, expressed the opinion that the solution of the minorities problem was to be found in constant co-operation and the establishment of mutual confidence between the majorities and minorities in each country.

The use of force to bring about the assimilation of minorities was universally condemned. It was generally agreed that minorities should have the right to use their own language. Several speakers referred to the practice in Canada and Switzerland in this regard. Sir Robert Borden stated that the best course is to afford to minorities every constitutional and reasonable right and at the same time to impress upon them their duty to co-operate. Senator Chapais later referred to the same subject in the Assembly, showing how the minority problem had been dealt with and had been solved in Canada.

Mandates

The work of the Mandates Commission was also considered by the Sixth Committee, which noted that the Mandatory Powers had recognized that the success of their work had been materially facilitated by the organs of the League.

The Sixth Committee expressed its gratification at the improvement of the situation in Palestine, at the efforts made by the Mandatory to restore an atmosphere of tranquillity and the steps taken to prevent the recurrence of such tragic incidents as the Assembly had had to deplore last year. It noted the renewed undertaking given by the British Government to afford the Mandates Commission an opportunity of making observations on whatever might