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be begun after the facts were ascertained. The League had no material force, but public opinion was behind it, and, if this public opinion were instructed, it would prove to be an important factor.

The League might further undertake to define the boundaries of a neutral zone and to supervise the Straits.

Dr. Nansen had said that the matter would have to come to the League when the negotiators had finished their work. Why should not the assistance of the League be asked in the beginning? Thus it might be possible to avoid the mistake, made in Paris and at Genoa, of arranging an imperfect settlement and handing over to the League the problems which remained.

PRINCE ARFA-ED-DOWLEH (Persia) said that Persia was particularly interested in the rapid conclusion of the war. He had asked the assembly to intervene in the rapid year. It might then have been believed that he was speaking on behalf of Turkey and the Moslems, but yesterday and to-day his sole concern was with humanity at large. The war had gone on with no other result than an increase in the number of its victims. Turkey was not now the only nation concerned. Millions of Moslems turned towards Turkey and awaited the issue of the conflict. It was necessary to act wisely. Certain nations were to be thanked for their policy in the East, in particular, France and Italy. If every country were inspired with the spirit of the Covenant, peace might be restored. The adoption of the proposal of Dr. Nansen would, if necessary, permit the League of Nations usefully to intervene.

MR. TCHEOU-WEI (China) asked for what purpose the League had been established if it were not in order to do something for the suppression of war, which had inspired terror in the hearts of the nations. China brought with her the modest assistance of its 400,000,000 of inhabitants in order to safeguard the principles defined in the Covenant. It was impossible for the League of Nations to remain indifferent to the horrors of a war which was being indefinitely prolonged. The Chinese Government approved the proposal of Dr. Nansen.

MR. FISHER (British Empire) said he wished to express his gratitude to Dr. Nansen for bringing up this grave international question. The League of Nations was an association to prevent war, and could not watch unmoved the continuation or extension of the present war in the Near East. The exact terms of the resolution to be adopted by the committee were not, however, of great importance. It should express the grave anxiety with which the League of Nations viewed the present situation, and the desire of the League that hostilities should cease and peace be established. It should, however, be noted that the negotiations were in the hands of certain Powers, and that it was not well to perplex these negotiations, which, so far, were progressing satisfactorily.

The League should express its willingness to render any assistance for which it might be asked, either during the present negotiations or in the event of their failure. The League was in an excellent position to assist owing to the international atmosphere which prevailed at Geneva, and the possession of a permanent machinery.

He begged to submit to the committee a resolution which embodied these considerations:—

“The assembly views with dismay the possibility of the prolongation of the war in the Near East. It notes with satisfaction the announcement of a conference at which the interested Powers will be represented, and it trusts that the council will be prepared, as the occasion demands, to render any assistance which may be invited by the negotiating Powers towards the attainment of a prompt and durable peace.”

The British Government was anxious to secure the co-operation of the League, and believed that the League would be able to assist in a durable settlement. The British Government recognised and shared the hope of the British Dominions that the League would be able to take a prominent share in the restoration of peace, and was ready to afford facilities as the occasion might demand.

LORD ROBERT CECIL (South Africa) said there were dangers and difficulties either in action or in a failure to act. There was, however, a war in progress, and it was the duty of the League to take wise and effective action under article 11, unless there were very good reasons for refraining. Emir Zoka-ed-Dowleh had

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