

The German delegation asked that these suggestions be embodied in a general protocol open to the signature of all States. During the Third Session of the above Committee in June and July, 1928, there was strong opposition on the part of Great Britain, France, Japan and Italy to a protocol. As a result the Committee finally rejected the idea and framed instead a model multi-lateral treaty which might be used as a bilateral one. This treaty received some opposition in the Third Committee and attracted little attention in the Assembly as it came so soon after the signing of the Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact.

It was, however, recommended to the consideration of the States Members and non-Members of the League in the hope that it might serve as a basis for States desirous of concluding an agreement of this kind.

(e) *Financial Assistance to States Victims of Aggression*

In September, 1926, the Financial Committee had been requested by the Council to work out a plan of financial assistance to States victims of aggression. In 1927 the report of the Financial Committee was presented to the Assembly, which instructed the Committee on Arbitration and Security to carry on the study of the problem.

A joint committee, composed of members of the Committee on Arbitration and Security and of the Financial Committee, was appointed to prepare a report. This Committee had found it difficult to draft a plan because there were certain questions of a political character which, it thought, should be answered by the Assembly before definite progress could be made. These questions were:—

- (1) Should the convention on financial assistance be an independent convention or should it constitute an integral part of a general disarmament convention?
- (2) Should the plan for financial assistance apply in the case of a threat of war as well as in the case of actual war?
- (3) Should the convention come into force merely on the decision of the Council or must the consent of all signatory States (including those not on the Council) be obtained in order to put the plan into operation?

The discussion before the Third Committee showed that the majority felt that a special Convention should be drawn up which should constitute part of the general framework of the disarmament program. It was also proposed that financial assistance, which might be extended to cover the threat of war, as well as war itself, should be voted by the Council alone. It was stipulated, though, that this vote must be unanimous, and is only binding on those states signatory to any Convention that might be drawn up.

The political aspects of the problem having been disposed of, for the time being at least, it will now be possible for the Financial Committee to prepare a draft Convention for the consideration of the next Assembly. It is understood, however, that acceptance of the principle of Financial Assistance does not imply acceptance of the Convention which is to be drafted by the Financial Committee.

(f) *Establishment of a League of Nations Radio-Telegraphic Station*

This question, which concerns the independence of the League in the matter of air communications with the outside world, has been under consideration for some time. Certain delegations considered that in times of emergency it might be of capital importance that the League of Nations should be in a position to communicate directly with all States members.

The Communications and Transit Committee under orders from the Council had prepared a preliminary report which was laid before the Assembly (1927) at which a resolution was adopted congratulating the Council on having initiated