

*Date of Convocation of the Assembly.*

Under the existing rule, the Assembly was scheduled to meet on September 10th at the latest, and it might have been convened as early as September 4th—dates which were inconvenient to the United Kingdom Government. Accordingly, they proposed that Rule 1, paragraph 1, of the Assembly Rules of Procedure be amended to read as follows:—

“The Assembly shall meet in general session every year at the seat of the League of Nations, commencing on the Monday which falls in the period September 14 to September 20 inclusive.”

Following a brief discussion, an amendment was adopted by the First Committee providing that henceforward the Assembly should open on the Monday falling between September 10 and 16 inclusive.

*Status of Austria.*

The First Committee was requested by the Fourth Committee to give an opinion as to whether the Note by which the German Government informed the Secretary-General that Austria had “ceased to be a Member of the League of Nations” as a result of her re-union with the German Reich, should be considered a notice of withdrawal within the meaning of Article 1, paragraph 3, of the Covenant, which reads as follows:—

“Any Member of the League may, after two years’ notification of its intention so to do, withdraw from the League, provided that all its international obligations and all its obligations under this Covenant shall have been fulfilled at the time of its withdrawal.”

On the proposal of the Chairman, a Sub-Committee, consisting of the delegates of France, Colombia, United Kingdom, Denmark and the Chairman, was set up to draft a reply. The Sub-Committee proposed that the First Committee should give the following opinion on the question submitted to it by the Fourth Committee:—

“The First Committee finds that the German Government’s letter to the Secretary-General of March 18, 1938, is not a notice of withdrawal from the League of Nations within the meaning of Article 1, paragraph 3, of the Covenant.

“The obligation to pay contributions during two years is simply the consequence of the fact that a notice of withdrawal from the League under the above-mentioned provision leaves the State which gives such notice with the rights and obligations of a Member of the League during a period of two years.”

The Committee approved the conclusion reached by its Sub-Committee subject to a reservation submitted by the Spanish delegate. He regretted that the only way in which the problem of the disappearance of Austria as an independent Member of the League should have been dealt with was in connection with administrative questions. He declared that his Government could not agree to any decision in virtue of which the State which had addressed the letter concerning the withdrawal of Austria from the League of Nations should consider itself free from the financial obligations towards the League of the State which it had annexed.

*Position of Aliens and Stateless Persons Released from Prison.*

On September 23 the First Committee considered a request for its views on the problem of the expulsion of aliens and stateless persons released from prison, which it had received from the Fifth Committee. Attached to the request was a memorandum recalling that the matter had come before the 1937 Assembly and that the Assembly had decided to refer it to the Seventh International Con-