

The delegate of Australia said that the mandate system expressed one of the most significant ideas in the Covenant, that the well-being and development of peoples not yet able to stand alone formed a sacred trust of civilization. Although, with the dissolution of the League, it would not be possible to continue the mandate system in its entirety, the Government of Australia did not regard the dissolution of the League as lessening the obligations imposed upon it toward the inhabitants of mandated territories. In due course these territories would be brought under the trusteeship system of the United Nations.

The delegate of South Africa said that for twenty years, as one of the Mandatory Powers, South Africa had worked in close co-operation with the Mandates Commission. The Union Government had consulted the peoples of South-West Africa, both European and non-European, regarding the form which their own future government should take. On the basis of these consultations and having regard to the unique circumstances which differentiated South-West Africa, a territory contiguous to the Union, from all other mandates, it intended at the forthcoming session of the United Nations Assembly to formulate its case for according South-West Africa a status under which it would be recognized as an integral part of the Union. In the meantime, the South African Government would scrupulously adhere to the obligations of the mandate until other arrangements were agreed upon.

LEGAL AND GENERAL QUESTIONS

Permanent Court of International Justice

The Charter of the United Nations provides for a new International Court of Justice to be the principal judicial organization of the United Nations, and its judges were elected by the General Assembly in February. It was therefore incumbent on the Assembly, in providing for the dissolution of the League of Nations, to provide also for the dissolution of the Permanent Court of International Justice. To this end the Assembly passed a resolution setting forth that, as the Judges of the Permanent Court had resigned and as on the dissolution of the League no machinery would exist for the appointment of new Judges, the Permanent Court should for all purposes be regarded as dissolved from the day following the termination of the Assembly. The resolution, by a timely coincidence, was adopted on the day on which the new Court met for the first time at The League.