

tion to the claim of the non-grouped States. It therefore recommended that, for the period beginning with the election of the non-permanent Members of the Council at the Assembly's session of 1933 and ending with the election of their successors in the year 1936, the number of non-permanent seats on the Council should be provisionally increased from nine to ten.

This recommendation of the Special Committee was approved unanimously, and without discussion by the First Committee and later by the Council.

The Special Committee further recommended a change in procedure—namely, that candidates for election to the Council should be publicly nominated in writing before the election. This recommendation was also adopted unanimously by the First Committee. The system of previous nomination will come into force when the elections are held at the next ordinary Assembly.

Simplification of the Procedure of the Assembly

On the proposal of the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, the First Committee adopted, as an experiment, two new measures designed to shorten the duration of the Assembly.

In the past, almost invariably the session of the Assembly has had to be prolonged owing to the inability of the Fourth Committee to complete its discussions in time. In order to give this Committee the period normally necessary for its work, it was decided by 15 votes to 7 and three abstentions that it may be convened one week before the formal opening of the Assembly.

The other measure had for its object the shortening of the existing procedure by which a certain number of plenary meetings of the Assembly were held merely for the presentation and adoption of reports which required no discussion. The First Committee recommended that these reports should be adopted by the Assembly without further formality than the reading of their titles by the President.

Nationality of Women

The question of the Nationality of Women was placed on the agenda of the Assembly at the request of the Chilian Government.

The representative of Chile proposed that the Assembly should invite Governments before its next ordinary session to express their opinion as to the advisability of confirming the principle of the equality of sexes as regards nationality by a protocol open to the signature of States.

The delegates of the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Australia, Canada and some other countries noted that this proposal was a reversal of the procedure laid down by the previous Assembly which instructed the Council to follow the question and to decide at what moment it should be considered. They declared that they were not prepared to agree to such a reversal of policy, but that, in order to avoid giving the impression of formal opposition, they would abstain from voting.

As a compromise, the representative of France proposed that the Chilian draft should be replaced by the following text, which was adopted unanimously:—

“The Assembly..... expresses the hope that, before the next session of the Assembly, the Governments will have put the Secretary-General in a position to communicate to the Council the information as to the effect which they have found it possible to give to recommendation No. VI of the Codification Conference.”

Penal and Penitentiary Questions

The questions of unification of criminal law and co-operation of States in the prevention and suppression of crime were discussed. Some delegations