

International Assistance to Refugees

25. The work of the League High Commissioner for Refugees, Sir Herbert Emerson, was reviewed in the first instance by Committee I on the basis of a report submitted by the High Commissioner, who appeared in person before the Committee. Conscious of the fact that a study of the whole refugee problem was at that time being undertaken in London by a Committee of Inquiry of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, the Assembly did not feel it necessary to embark upon an exhaustive inquiry into the future of the work. The hope was expressed that the categories of refugees with which the League had been concerned—namely, those known as Nansen refugees and also refugees coming from Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland—would be covered by any unified system of protection and assistance which might emerge from the London discussions.

26. In order to ensure continuity in the work of the High Commissioner, the Committee recommended the extension of his term of office until the end of 1946, and a clause to give effect to this proposal was embodied in the general resolution governing the dissolution of the League to which reference is made later in the report.

Dissolution of the League

27. The dissolution of the League, the principal subject before the Assembly, embraced a large number of matters requiring the most detailed examination. The consideration of a draft resolution prepared by the United Kingdom Delegation covering the many aspects of the dissolution fell partly within the province of Committee I, and as to the rest within that of Committee II, the former concerning itself with questions of principle, the latter dealing with the financial and administrative aspects.

28. The general plan described below, and eventually approved by the Assembly, involved the dissolution of the League as from the day following the close of the Assembly except for the sole purpose of liquidation and the appointment of a Board of Liquidators, whose duty it would be (a) to transfer the assets of the League (apart from the interests of the International Labour Office) to the United Nations, and (b) to arrange for the discharge, at the appropriate time, of the remaining staff and the preservation of their pension rights. The several aspects of dissolution will be dealt with in the following paragraphs of the report. It is desirable, however, first to make some reference to the financial position of the League as revealed by the Reports presented to the Assembly. The success achieved by the Acting Secretary-General and his