

6. Intellectual Rights—

“ The Assembly—

“ Convinced that the conclusion of a universal agreement for the protection of intellectual creations is bound to have the happiest influence upon international intellectual relations ;

“ Taking note of the official transmission to the American Governments, by the Pan-American Union, of the two draft World Conventions framed for that purpose respectively by the Montevideo Special Commission and the Joint Committee of Experts of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation and the Rome International Institute for the Unification of Private Law ;

“ And having been informed of the Belgian Administration’s intention of sending to all Governments a memorandum drawn up in collaboration with the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation and containing all the material available ;

“ Trusts that circumstances will enable the Belgian Government to convene at the earliest possible date the two conferences contemplated for the revision of the Berne Convention and the framing of a universal charter of authors’ rights ;

“ Invites the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation and the Rome International Institute for the Unification of Private Law to arrange for a further meeting of the Committee of Experts to consider such additional observations as may be received from Governments with regard to the draft conventions, and to formulate definite proposals regarding the World Conference on the basis of those observations ;

“ And desires already at the present stage to express its opinion that account should be taken in these proposals of the need for increasing the reciprocal influence of civilizations, more especially by appropriate measures governing translation rights.”

7. Draft International Act concerning Intellectual Co-operation—

“ The Assembly—

“ Having considered the joint report submitted to it by the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation and the Governing Body of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation on the subject of a draft International Act concerning intellectual co-operation ;

“ Being informed of the opinion of the Council of the League of Nations, dated 15th September, 1937, recognizing the importance of these proposals and recommending them to the Assembly’s attention ;

“ Noting that those proposals have received support from many quarters in the course of the discussion :

“ Instructs the Secretary-General of the League of Nations to communicate the text of the draft Act to all members of the League and non-member States for their observations. The replies will be considered by the Executive Committee of the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, which, having made such inquiries and revisions as may be necessary, will report to the Council of the League, and the latter will, if it thinks fit, summon a conference to conclude the Act.”

MODERN MEANS OF SPREADING INFORMATION UTILIZED IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE.

The Seventeenth Assembly passed a resolution under which the Secretary-General was required to report (for the consideration of the Eighteenth Assembly) on the technical means of spreading information at the disposal of the competent sections of the Secretariat. The result of the Secretary-General’s action is a useful and informative report to the Assembly (Document A. 18, 1937) which was brought before the Sixth Committee at the meeting held on the 15th September, when the Chairman proposed that a sub-committee should be appointed to deal with the question, comprising the representatives of the Argentine, Australia, Austria, the United Kingdom, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, France, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, and Switzerland. The proposal having been accepted, the Committee proceeded to a general discussion, which was opened by the representative of Denmark, who was followed by M. Bonnet, the Director of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, and Lord Cranborne, representative of the United Kingdom.

The questions at issue have been divided into two groups :—

(a) Broadcasting and the Cinema ; and

(b) Intellectual co-operation,

and they might conveniently be referred to as the technical and intellectual aspects, but, of course, they rest on a common foundation.

It was primarily with broadcasting and the cinema that the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation had concerned itself so far, having reserved other aspects for later consideration. As to the other aspects, the Danish Foreign Minister, who has always taken a close personal interest in the work of intellectual co-operation, had made some rather striking suggestions at a meeting held in Paris in July last. They had reference to the preparation of a book or a series of books by authors and scientists in different countries dealing with problems which occasioned obstacles to international understanding ; to the preparation of a work showing the part played during the historic epoch by universal ideas and co-operation ; to the preparation of a world history text-book drawn up in a spirit of impartiality ; to the holding of an annual conference, during which problems of international life could be discussed ; and, finally, to the organization of international summer camps.

For an account of the action taken by the Committee of Intellectual Co-operation I refer you to its report (Document C. 327, M. 220, pages 93-99).