

(2) To request the Secretary-General (1) to submit the report on the legal aspect of illegitimacy to the Governments of member States for their comments, prior to its publication; (2) to consult the Governments of the Argentine Republic, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Japan, Mexico, Poland, the United States of America, Uruguay, and Yugoslavia as to the principles which they adopt in the organization and administration of welfare work among the young, including social assistance, and to ask them to indicate the part played by the authorities and the voluntary organizations respectively; and, when the report on this subject is completed, to submit it to these Governments for their approval.

(3) To accept the new questionnaire (printed as Appendix 5 to Document C. 147, M. 88, 1938, IV, mentioned above) for the use of Governments in preparing their annual reports on the Traffic in Women and Children.

REFUGEES.

A reference to my report on the eighteenth Assembly will disclose that I dealt at some length with the question of refugees. The debate in the Sixth Committee on this question was long and at times somewhat strained, and it was only after surmounting considerable difficulties that some degree of unanimity was reached, and then only by abstentions when the motion was put to the vote in the Assembly. The effective part of the Assembly's resolution reads: "The Assembly requests the Council to draw up or cause to be drawn up before the next Assembly a plan for international assistance to refugees." This resolution was before the Council in January last, when it appointed a Committee of Three, consisting of the representatives of Bolivia, the United Kingdom, and France, whose duty it was to draw up the plan required by the Assembly. This Committee met in Paris in February last, and a report by the representative of Bolivia on its deliberations was before the Council on the 14th May (see Document C. 189, 1938, XII). As the plan has yet to be considered by the Assembly, which may modify it, and as the dissentient voices which were heard last year may be heard again, no useful purpose would be served in analysing it now except to say that it provides for the amalgamation of the work of the two organizations—the Nansen International Office and the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees coming from Germany—which, under decision of the Assembly, are to be discontinued at the end of this year. The new organization to be set up for a limited period would be directed by the High Commissioner for Refugees designated by the League and under the protection of the League, and the High Commissioner would have certain duties as defined by the Committee of Three. The Council accepted its Rapporteur's report, and passed the following resolution, with the abstention of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:—

"The Council—

"Having examined the report of the Committee appointed to draw up a plan for international assistance to refugees;

"Takes note of the proposals contained in the report which has been submitted to it;

"Instructs the Secretary-General—

"(1) To transmit this report for observations, to the Governments of the States members of the League of Nations and, for information, to the Governments of the United States of America and the United States of Brazil;

"(2) To prepare, after consultation with the President of the Governing Body of the Nansen International Office for Refugees and the High Commissioner for Refugees coming from Germany, a detailed plan on the basis of the proposals of the present report.

"(3) To transmit the present report, together with the detailed plan, to the Assembly, with any observations he may have received from Governments."

DESIRABILITY OF EXTENDING THE POWERS OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES COMING FROM GERMANY TO COVER REFUGEES COMING FROM THE TERRITORY WHICH FORMERLY CONSTITUTED AUSTRIA.

This question was raised by the representative of the United Kingdom. One of the results of the Anschluss has been a great increase in refugees, especially Jews, and as there was doubt whether the powers of the High Commissioner would cover refugees from Austria, although incorporated in the German Reich, the position had to be clarified. The question was at first privately discussed by the Council and then referred to the Council Committee of Three which deals with Refugee questions. This Committee's recommendations are embodied in the Rapporteur's report, C. 188, 1938, XII, which came before the Council in public session on the 14th May. The recommendations are, in effect, that the High Commissioner is to interpret his mandate as applying to refugees coming from Austria, that the Secretary-General should in the meantime consult with Governments concerned, and that the High Commissioner should report to the next Assembly. These recommendations were accepted and the Council passed the following resolution:—

"The Council—

"Having taken note of the report of the Committee entrusted with the examination of the desirability of extending the powers of the High Commissioner for refugees coming from Germany to cover refugees coming from the territory which formerly constituted Austria,

"Approves the conclusions set out above by the Committee;