the liquidation of the Nansen Office; in any event, the report should be in the hands of Governments before July 31st, 1937, in order that the scheme may be considered at the next ordinary session of the Assembly;

(c) To make recommendations in time for consideration by the Assembly at its ordinary session in 1938 on the best method of allocating the tasks undertaken by the Office up to the date of its liquidation in the light of the situation existing at that time.

In order to give effect to the provisions of this resolution, the Assembly appointed M. Michael Hansson as President of the Governing Body of the Office until December 31st, 1938.

The Assembly further noted the recommendations of the Acting President in regard to the settlement of different categories of refugees and approved an additional grant of 200,000 Swiss francs to the Nansen Office for the purpose of facilitating the transfer and settlement in South America of Saar refugees residing in France. It also recommended to the Governments the encouragement of the naturalisation and absorption of refugees in countries in which they had been resident for many years; the issue of surcharged postage stamps to assist the Nansen Office in its work; the general application of the principles of the Franco-Belgian Agreement of June 30th, 1928; and the adoption of the Convention of October 28th, 1933, on the International Status of Refugees.

In his special report to the Assembly, the President of the Office proposed, inter alia, the maintenance of the status quo as regards the administration of the Office and the prolongation, in particular, of the term of office of the members of the Governing Body, the Managing Committee and the Finance Committee until the Office was wound up, in order to ensure during the remaining two years the maintenance and continuity of existing forms of co-operation. The President also stated his view that the existing composition of the Advisory Committee of private organisations for refugees should remain unchanged.

The Sixth Committee of the seventeenth Assembly took note of the suggestions and conclusions of the special report by the President and, that Committee's report having been adopted by the seventeenth Assembly, the Governing Body at its fourteenth session (October 21st, 1936) decided to change the text
of Articles I and XIII of the Rules of Procedure of the Office so as to adapt them to the new situation. The period of office of the members of the Governing Body and of the Managing Committee will therefore terminate on December 31st, 1938, the date on which the Office is to be wound up. At the same session, the Governing Body noted the resignation of M. Raphaël, who, in consequence of his appointment as Greek Minister in Turkey, was compelled to relinquish his duties as a regular member of the Governing Body.

In addition to this meeting, the Governing Body held its fifteenth session on April 28th, 1937.

*Settlement of Armenian Refugees in Syria.*

In response to the urgent request of the Governing Body, the President proceeded to Syria and Lebanon in November 1936. This journey enabled him to obtain an exact idea of the work being done by the Office in those countries, its scope, the stage to which it had advanced and the work still remaining to be done. The President realised the absolute necessity of continuing the work until its natural conclusion — that is to say, until the last families still living in huts had been given suitable accommodation. For that reason, the Office decided to postpone the scheme of liquidation for a further year, in order that the sums refunded by refugees already installed might continue to be used until December 31st, 1937, for the benefit of the refugees still living in huts. With one exception, all the organisations assisting in the work of settling these refugees declared themselves in favour of this course, and the High Commissioner of the French Republic at Beirut approved the decision. Thus, the Office will be able to continue its work of settlement until the end of the year; it will primarily assist the families which are still living in huts at Beirut and Aleppo. To provide housing for them, it decided to make a further supplementary advance of 80,000 French francs, in addition to the sums refunded.

From the time when this work was first begun until the end of the year 1936, 4,800 houses have been built, accommodating 6,900 families, or nearly 33,000 persons; this does not include the agricultural colonies, in which 267 families, comprising some 1,360 persons, have been established.
Settlement of Armenian Refugees in Greece.

On his return from Syria, the President proceeded to Athens, where he also examined the situation of the Armenian refugees. These are housed in huts at Athens, the Piræus and Salonika. The conditions in which they live do not differ greatly from those of the Armenians in Syria. As, however, the Greek Government has just decided to pull down a large number of the refugees’ huts near Athens, some 2,500 families will become homeless. Of these families, 500 are completely indigent and 1,200 others will in any case be unable to maintain themselves entirely. The Office has therefore been compelled to carry out measures similar to those it took in the countries of the Levant. In response to its urgent appeal, the Armenian organisations, which are displaying great activity in assisting these refugees, have already collected £250 and forwarded it to the Office. The Office itself has so far granted 1,000 Swiss francs to these refugees, together with 10,000 Swiss francs on condition that the Armenian organisations collect at least an equal amount. The Office is also endeavouring to obtain the necessary sums by appeals to the public. The Greek Government, for its part, has undertaken to provide part of the land for housing these refugees; but it will be necessary to acquire more land.

Russian Refugees in Turkey.

The Turkish Government generously agreed to naturalise upwards of 1,600 Russian refugees provided that the Office undertook to evacuate some of these refugees who were not granted naturalisation. Of these refugees, about 150 in number, some were, after lengthy negotiations, evacuated to different countries, particularly Syria, Belgium, Yugoslavia and Greece (the island of Syra). Subsequently, Belgium and Yugoslavia undertook to keep the refugees they had received. As regards the refugees in Greece, who had only been received temporarily, several other Governments were approached, particularly the Scandinavian Governments, with a view to their taking a certain number of refugees. After difficult negotiations, a few refugees were transferred to Norway and Sweden. Denmark contributed a sum of 20,000 crowns to the expenses of the Office. England
has just undertaken to receive a few refugees, on condition that
the Office provides for their maintenance until they are able
to keep themselves. The Office is at present trying to find
means of fulfilling this condition.

As regards the naturalisation of the refugees living in Turkey,
there is every reason to believe that the question will be settled
within a few months, as 1,300 of the 1,600 applicants have already
received their papers. To cover the costs of naturalisation and
the cost of transport and maintenance of the refugees evacuated,
the Office has provided credits amounting to 101,000 Swiss francs
in addition to the 25,000 Swiss francs granted by the American
Committee at Istanbul, which has been co-operating with the
Office for many years.

Refugees from the Saar.

As already stated, the League Assembly made the Office,
in September 1936, a grant of 200,000 Swiss francs for the
purpose of facilitating the transfer and settlement in South
America of Saar refugees living in France. This contribution
enabled the Office to continue the evacuation of these refugees
to Paraguay, where a mission sent by the Office in 1935 had
concluded a number of agreements with the Government of
Paraguay and with the owners of private land.

Up to the present, 103 refugees have been evacuated. The
refugees will be sent out in successive groups of 20 to 30 persons
as soon as they are ready to leave.

According to the plan arranged for these refugees, they are
sent from a European port to Asunción, and 12 hectares of
land are bought for each family, including one hectare of land
already cleared. A house is built of the type commonly employed
in the country, a well is bored and the agricultural implements
strictly necessary, together with seeds and a small stock of poultry,
are provided, and maintenance is granted for one year.

The reports received from Paraguay seem to indicate that
the settlement of the refugees is proceeding satisfactorily. This
colonisation movement seemed likely at one time to develop
rapidly. It has been slowed up, however, as a result of changes
in the economic and political situation in France, the facilities
at present granted there to these refugees and the favourable
effects of the ratification of the 1933 Convention relating to the International Status of Refugees.

**General Assistance to Refugees.**

In addition to these various activities, the representatives and correspondents of the Office in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Roumania, Syria, Turkey and Yugoslavia are daily affording help to the refugees by approaching the competent authorities to obtain or renew Nansen passports, to obtain visas of all kinds, and to arrange for the issue of the various documents provided for in Article 1 of the Agreement of June 30th, 1928. These representatives also make arrangements with a view to the placing and evacuation of refugees, receive numerous requests for advances and grants addressed to the Office by refugees and refugee organisations, make a preliminary examination of these requests, supervise the use made of the funds granted, etc. In 1936, the number of such cases of intervention amounted to more than 120,000. Moreover, in the same year, the Office made to refugees individually or to refugee organisations advances and grants amounting in all to 533,264.05 Swiss francs, including approximately 48,000 Swiss francs for the evacuation of Saar refugees.

**Convention on the International Status of Refugees.**

France and the United Kingdom have acceded to the Convention of October 28th, 1933, relating to the International Status of Refugees, the number of countries that have ratified that instrument being thus brought up to seven. These countries are: the United Kingdom, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Italy and Norway. The Convention has now been laid before the Belgian Chamber and it is fully expected that it will be ratified by that country.

**Finances.**

The funds collected by the Office in 1936 amounted to 537,686.65 Swiss francs. Of that sum, 255,535.50 Swiss francs
were obtained from the sale of Nansen stamps, 124,621.50 Swiss francs from repayments by refugees of advances made to them, 72,275.60 Swiss francs from the surcharge on postage-stamps issued in France and Norway, and the balance from various other sources.

Despite the efforts made and the additional funds brought in through the various activities of the Office, the great obstacle to the full development of its work still lies in lack of money. For that reason the Office has during the past year intensified its propaganda for the issue of postage-stamps and has tried to devise new means of adding to its resources. Unfortunately, despite all it has done, no other country has yet decided to follow the example of France and Norway by issuing a surcharged postage-stamp.

Other plans are under consideration with the object of increasing the Office's funds, but the negotiations are not yet sufficiently advanced to enable an opinion to be given as to the possibility of their realisation.¹

II. REFUGEES (JEWISH AND OTHER) COMING FROM GERMANY.

At its last session, when adopting the report of its Sixth Committee, the Assembly decided that the duties of the High Commissioner for Refugees coming from Germany should include, in particular, the following:

"As regards the improvement of the legal status of refugees: to approach Governments in order to obtain their accession to the Provisional Arrangement of July 4th, 1936,² and to prepare an inter-Governmental conference for the adoption of an international convention on the status of these refugees;

... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ...

"To maintain contact with the various private organisations, in particular through the Liaison Committee of an international character which has already been set up."

¹ See records of the plenary meetings of the seventeenth Assembly (1936), Official Journal, Special Supplement No. 155, pages 142-144, and Minutes of the Sixth Committee of the seventeenth Assembly, Official Journal, Special Supplement No. 161, pages 40 et seq.
The Provisional Arrangement drawn up at Geneva on July 4th, 1936,\(^1\) has been signed by five Governments: Belgium, the United Kingdom, Denmark, France and Norway.

The question of convening an inter-Governmental conference for the adoption of an international convention on the status of the refugees will be decided as soon as the Secretariat has received the replies of Governments in regard to the preliminary draft Convention sent to them for examination.

This draft Convention combines the stipulations of the Provisional Arrangement of July 4th, 1936, with those of the Convention relating to the International Status of Refugees, signed at Geneva on October 28th, 1933.\(^2\) It differs from these two instruments in its general provisions. These have been made more elastic as regards denunciation and also as regards the graduation of the commitments which States are prepared to assume either in respect of the Convention as a whole or in respect of parts of it only.

The High Commissioner's sphere of activity has also been extended. In this connection, a Liaison Committee, composed of representatives of twenty-six national or international organisations dealing with refugees, has been set up. It has held several sittings in the capitals of various countries anxious to see the refugee problem solved. During its second session, the Committee adopted a Statute defining the exact relations of the various organisations with each other and with the High Commissioner. The Committee has to co-ordinate the efforts of the several constituent organisations with a view to the submission to the High Commissioner of suggestions of a general nature on the legal protection and the settlement of the refugees.

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\(^1\) Document C.362.M.237.1936.XII.

The various Committees of the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation will be holding their annual meetings between July 2nd and 24th in Paris.

A summary of the activities of the Organisation can therefore only be included in Part II of the annual report, to be published in September 1937.
16.

INTERNATIONAL BUREAUX.

I. RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL BUREAUX.

Since the last session of the Assembly, there has been no change in the number of international bureaux placed under the direction of the League in accordance with Article 24 of the Covenant.

1. International Hydrographic Bureau.

This Bureau has sent to the Secretariat the reports, publications and circular letters addressed to its Member States.

The Director of the Communications and Transit Section represented the Secretary-General at the fourth International Hydrographic Conference, held at Monaco in April 1937.

The Auditor of the League of Nations has been asked to audit the accounts for the past financial year.


This Commission has continued to forward all its publications to the Secretariat. It has been in close touch with the Communications and Transit Organisation.

The Communications and Transit Organisation was represented at the twenty-fifth session of the International Commission for Air Navigation, which was held at Brussels from June 4th to 10th, 1937.
3. **International Central Office for the Control of the Liquor Traffic in Africa.**

The International Central Office has kept in touch with the Secretariat of the League of Nations, to which, in conformity with Article 7 of the Convention of Saint-Germain concerning the control of the liquor traffic in Africa, it has forwarded all the information received by the States parties to the Convention.

4. **International Bureau for Information and Enquiries regarding Relief to Foreigners.**

The usual contact has been maintained between the Secretariat and this Bureau.

5. **Nansen International Office for Refugees.**

The work of this Office is dealt with in Chapter 14, page 200.

6. **International Exhibition Bureau.**

This Bureau has forwarded its publications and information concerning its work to the Secretariat.

The Secretariat was represented at the ninth session of the Governing Body of the Bureau held in Paris in June 1936, at the tenth session held in Paris on November 26th and 27th, 1936, and at the eleventh session, also held in Paris, on May 4th and 5th, 1937.

II. **Relations with International Organisations.**

The Secretariat has maintained contact with the various international organisations — official unions or bureaux, private associations or federations. It has added to its documentary material on these organisations, and this has enabled it to reply to the numerous requests for information which have been submitted to it.
III. Publications.

(a) *Bulletin of Information on the Work of International Organisations.*

The Secretariat has published two numbers of the *Bulletin* during the period under review. The brief particulars of the discussions at the congresses and conferences of certain international organisations which are to be found in the *Bulletin* were supplied by the organisations themselves.

(b) *Handbook of International Organisations.*

The English edition, enlarged and thoroughly revised, which is in course of preparation, will appear about the end of the year. It will contain particulars of more than six hundred organisations, supplied by the organisations themselves.
17.

BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS.

I. ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1936.

The accounts for the year 1936 were examined by the Auditor and considered by the Supervisory Commission, whose report is submitted to the 1937 Assembly.¹

II. GENERAL FINANCIAL RESULTS OF THE YEAR 1936.

The budget amounted to 28,279,901 Swiss francs; the expenditure was 23,938,517.81 Swiss francs. Receipts in respect of contributions for the current year amounted to 25,947,929.11 gold francs, equivalent to 28,149,385.34 Swiss francs, and the total income, including receipts in respect of contributions for previous years and profits on investments realised, was 32,137,854.82 Swiss francs. The cash surplus for the year 1936 amounts therefore to 8,199,337.01 Swiss francs or to 5,799,444.62 gold francs, but is reduced to a net sum of 5,592,101.35 gold francs after deduction of the proportion accruing to States which are members of the International Labour Organisation but not of the League.

This favourable result is due to:

(1) Greater regularity — attributable in part to the efforts of the Special Committee on Contributions — in the payment

¹ Document A.3.1937.X.
of current contributions, which increased from 88 1/4% on the 1935 budget in 1935 to 91 3/4% on the 1936 budget in 1936.

(2) Economies by the Administrations (see Auditor's observations on this subject).

(3) Profits on the contributions which, in accordance with the decision of the 1936 Assembly, continued to be paid in gold francs after the devaluation of the Swiss franc on September 26th, 1936, and gains on investments which were realised.

III. FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS ON JUNE 1ST, 1937.

Results of the First Five Months.

During the first five months of the year 1937, the amount of contributions received totalled 10,873,183.97 gold francs, or 46.57% of the budget, as against 13,072,878.78 gold francs, or 46.22% of the budget, for the corresponding period last year.

Of the sums paid, 9,473,512.72 gold francs represented payments in respect of the current year and 1,399,671.25 gold francs in respect of arrears.

General Situation and Disposal of Surplus for 1936.

At its session held in May 1937, the Supervisory Commission 1 decided to devote to the reduction of contributions in respect of 1938 the whole of the profits, amounting to 1,168,087.84 gold francs, resulting from the payment of contributions in gold after the devaluation of the Swiss franc. It adjourned to its next session the disposal of the balance of the surplus, amounting to 4,424,013.51 gold francs.

The various financial documents and reports submitted to the Assembly show further improvement in the financial situation of the League, which may be regarded as sound and healthy.

1 See document A.5.1937.X.
IV. Budget for the Year 1938.

The total budget for 1938, including the budgets of the Secretariat, the International Labour Organisation and the Permanent Court of International Justice, amounts to 31,268,810 Swiss francs.

The most noteworthy feature of the 1938 estimates as compared with 1937 is the method adopted for the conversion of the expenditure into the income budget.

For 1937, the Assembly had decided that the "total charged to the States Members in gold francs should be fixed at a coefficient of 20% below the total expenditure fixed in Swiss francs at the old parity", and that the difference "between the 20% in question and the actual devaluation of the Swiss franc should be paid into a fund" placed at the disposal of the Supervisory Commission for such additional expenditure as might have to be incurred by the three principal Organisations in consequence of the depreciation of the Swiss franc and of the Dutch florin.

For 1938, the Commission has recommended that the full benefit of the depreciation of the Swiss franc should be transferred to the States Members, by converting the expenditure into the income budget at the present official parity of 1 gold franc = 1.41381418 Swiss francs. On the other hand, a credit of 1,300,000 Swiss francs has been inserted in a new Part X of the budget, to meet next year such expenditure as might result from currency depreciation.

The budget of the Secretariat amounts to 14,845,971 Swiss francs—an increase of only 3,868 francs over the corresponding figure for 1937. The insignificance of this difference is mainly attributable to the fact that the necessary increase resulting from the devaluation of the Swiss franc is compensated for by enhanced lump-sum deductions on account of the Guarantee Fund, which rise from 1,000,000 Swiss francs in the 1937 budget to 1,300,000 Swiss francs in the 1938 estimates.

The sum for which the Members of the League are liable in respect of the International Labour Organisation is 726,610 Swiss francs more than the corresponding figure for the current

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1 See documents A.4, A.4(a) and A.4(b).1937.X
year. This increase is due to the effects of the devaluation, enhanced provisions for the enlarged building, and increases in the estimates in respect of staff and committees.

Although the budget of the Permanent Court of International Justice is 23,588.06 florins less than that for 1937, there is, after conversion into Swiss francs, an increase of 333,183 Swiss francs. This apparent discrepancy is attributable to the fact that the depreciation of the Dutch florin is substantially less than that of the Swiss franc.

As a result of the refund to the States Members of the League of part of the surplus for 1936, and of the addition of 12 units to the scale of contributions in consequence of the admission of Egypt, the net unit for 1938 amounts to 22,450.95 gold francs, or 609.50 gold francs less than for 1937.

V. Contributions in Arrear.

At its last session, the Assembly approved the recommendations of the Special Committee on Contributions in the case of the contributions of five States.

The Committee has entered into negotiations with the representatives of certain other States in arrears with their contributions, with a view to preparing for its next session, which will be held during the summer.
18.

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS.


In letters dated March 4th and 16th, 1937,1 from the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Secretary-General, Egypt applied for admission to the League of Nations, stating that it "has the sincere intention to observe its international obligations, and that it will accept such regulations as may be prescribed by the League in regard to its military, naval and air forces and armaments".

The Assembly held an extraordinary session on May 26th, 1937, and set up a General Main Committee to which it referred the question of Egypt's admission. Since a number of Governments had approached Cairo assuring the Egyptian Government that they would welcome Egypt's entry into the League of Nations at the earliest possible date, and in view of the Egyptian Government's undertaking, the General Main Committee saw no necessity for asking a sub-committee to make a full examination of the matter. It decided to draft a resolution forthwith recommending Egypt's admission to the League of Nations.

On the same date, the Assembly unanimously adopted its General Main Committee's recommendation,2 and Egypt was admitted to membership of the League of Nations. At the

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1 See document A.(Extr.).2.1937.
same time, the Assembly decided that, subject to any decision that might be taken at the next ordinary session of the Assembly, the rate of Egypt's contribution to the expenses of the League of Nations for the years 1937, 1938 and 1939 should be fixed at twelve units.

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In a telegram despatched from Asunción on February 23rd, 1935, and received on February 24th, Paraguay gave "formal notice, as provided in the Covenant, of its decision to withdraw from the League of Nations".

In acknowledging this telegram from Asunción on February 25th, 1935, the Secretary-General took note that the Paraguayan Government gave notice of its intention to withdraw from the League in accordance with Article 1, paragraph 3, of the Covenant which runs: "Any Member of the League may, after two years' notice of its intention so to do, withdraw from the League, provided that all its international obligations and all its obligations under this Covenant shall have been fulfilled at the time of its withdrawal."

In a communication dated February 19th, 1937, the Government of Paraguay informed the Secretary-General that, in accordance with the notification dated February 23rd, 1935, Paraguay's withdrawal should be regarded as complete and definite.

This communication was transmitted to the Members of the League.

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On September 28th, 1936 (seventeenth session of the Assembly), Bolivia, New Zealand and Sweden were elected Members of the Council. On the same date, the Argentine Republic, Australia, Denmark and Portugal ceased to be Members of the Council.

On October 8th, 1936 (seventeenth session of the Assembly), China and Latvia were elected Members of the Council in

1 See Official Journal, Special Supplement No. 155, pages 56-57.
pursuance of the Council's decision, approved by the Assembly in accordance with the provisions of Article 4, paragraph 2, of the Covenant of the League of Nations, to create two new non-permanent seats on the Council as a provisional measure.¹ Before China was elected, a vote was taken in the Assembly declaring her to be re-eligible as a Member of the Council.

II. QUESTION OF THE NUMBER OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

On May 13th, 1936, the Council decided to adjourn its decision on the proposals contained in the report of the Committee to consider the composition of the Council, until it should have ascertained the Assembly's views on this subject. On October 1st, 1936 (seventeenth session),² the Assembly, after examining this report, approved the Committee's recommendation that two new non-permanent seats should be created provisionally on the Council, and declared that, in consequence, it was desirable that, for the period beginning with the election of the non-permanent Members of the Council at the 1936 session of the Assembly and ending with the election of the non-permanent Members in 1939, the number of non-permanent seats on the Council should be increased provisionally to eleven. The Assembly also recommended that, as soon as circumstances permitted, the Council should set up and convene a small Committee of Experts to make proposals regarding this matter.

The Council, taking note of the Assembly's resolution and acting in conformity with the provisions of Article 4, paragraph 2, of the Covenant, decided on October 2nd, 1936 (ninety-fourth session),³ provisionally to increase the number of non-permanent seats on the Council to eleven, as recommended by the Assembly on October 1st.

² Ibid., pages 91 and 92.
The Council's decision was unanimously approved by the Assembly on October 3rd, 1936 (seventeenth ordinary session).  

III. CONSTITUTION, PROCEDURE AND PRACTICE OF LEAGUE COMMITTEES.

Proceeding with the measures for the reform and co-ordination of the constitution, procedure and practice of League Committees, the Council adopted a report by the representative of France on September 26th, 1936 (ninety-third session), containing a new statute for the Advisory Commission for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Young People, the name of which was changed to Advisory Commission on Social Questions. The Health Organisation was also given a new statute, subject to the approval of the Assembly and to its ratification by the Office international d'Hygiène publique.

The Council also approved the new Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium and Other Dangerous Drugs, which had brought its Rules of Procedure into line with the General Regulations on Committees. The Council allowed the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation an extension of the time-limit for this work of co-ordination.

The Council requested a special Committee of Experts to study the reform of the Transit Organisation. This Committee encountered legal difficulties with regard to the application *in toto* of the principles contemplated by the Assembly in 1935.

The Council admitted that it was difficult, in drawing up a new statute for the Transit Organisation, to disregard the legal considerations to which the Special Committee drew attention. In these circumstances, it suggested that the Assembly

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should authorise the Council to approve the new statute, and that the Special Committee should be convened again to prepare the necessary texts. The Council's proposals were approved by the Assembly on October 10th, 1936.

On the same date, the Assembly adopted the new statute of the Health Organisation.¹

On January 27th, 1937 (ninety-sixth session),² the Council noted that the Office international d'Hygiène publique had ratified the new statute of the Health Organisation, and that this statute had therefore come into force. It approved the Rules of Procedure of the Fiscal Committee and the Committee of Statistical Experts, both of which had brought their rules into line with the General Regulations.

The Council then examined the proposals of the Rapporteur, the representative of France, concerning the Financial Committee, to the effect that the Financial Committee should be provided with a statute in accordance with the general rules laid down by the Council, and that certain principles should be laid down with regard to the membership of the Committee. The Council decided, however, to postpone a final decision on the Rapporteur's proposals until its next ordinary session. On May 27th, 1937 (ninety-seventh session),³ the Council adopted the proposals made by the representative of France in January as regards the Financial Committee and approved the new Rules of Procedure of the Health Committee.

In concluding his report, the representative of France reminded the Council of certain principles upon which the organisation of League Committees is based. These principles were set forth in the report presented by M. Gabriel Hanotaux to the Assembly in December 1920: (a) the interior working of the various organisations should be independent; (b) their relations with the Members of the League should be under control. The report adopted by the Assembly laid it down that such control should be exercised by the Council and the Assembly, at the same time emphasising the importance of the rôle of the Secretary-General, particularly in financial matters.

IV. INTERNATIONAL REPRESSIN OF TERRORISM.

On May 27th, 1937, the Council decided to convene a conference for November 1st, 1937, on the question of the international repression of terrorism.

The conference thus convened by the Council will be the last stage in an enquiry which was commenced in consequence of the tragic assassination of King Alexander of Yugoslavia and of M. Barthou at Marseilles in October 1934. As the result of that act of terrorism, the Council, on December 10th, 1934, reached the conclusion that the rules of international law relating to the repression of terrorist activities were not sufficiently precise to guarantee efficient international co-operation in the matter. It therefore set up a Committee of Experts to study the question with a view to framing a draft international Convention.

The Committee had before it suggestions which the French Government had made to the Council and other suggestions transmitted to it direct by a large number of other Governments. The proposals which it made to the Council were submitted for criticism to the Governments and were examined most carefully by the First Committee of the Assembly in 1936. As a result of this examination, the Committee has revised its proposals with a view to their submission to the conference which has just been convened.

Two draft Conventions have been prepared by the Committee. The first of these deals with the repression of terrorist activities. The drafting of a satisfactory international agreement on this subject proved to be a matter of great complexity, owing in particular to the difficulty of obtaining sufficient precision in defining the acts to which the Convention applies and the difficulty of reconciling the desire for effective measures against acts of terrorism with the conception of asylum for political offenders. The revision of the draft Convention has been mainly directed to meeting the views expressed on these two points by the Governments in their written communications and at the Assembly.

Apart from the provisions directly concerned with terrorism, the first draft Convention contains provisions dealing with
offences in connection with passports, such as the making and utilisation of forged or falsified passports and the unlawful issue or visaing of genuine passports. The parties to the Convention will be under the obligation to take, in their respective territories, appropriate measures to prevent any activity contrary to its purpose.

The second draft Convention provides for the establishment of an international criminal court. This court is not to have general jurisdiction. The object of its creation is to provide an alternative for the extradition of fugitives accused of terrorist crimes, or for the punishment of such fugitives in the territory to which they have fled, by creating an international tribunal before which they may be brought to trial. The advisability of establishing such an international criminal court was questioned by certain Governments during the discussion at the Assembly. Other Governments considered that the court would be a valuable institution, even if it did not obtain general acceptance. It was agreed that the existence of the court, if it were created, should not in any way affect the position or rights of States which felt themselves unable to become parties to the Convention establishing the court, and this understanding has been embodied in the drafts to be submitted to the conference.¹


The Institute continued its work during the year in the different directions which had already been found to lead towards the general goal of unification.

Preliminary Draft Uniform Laws submitted to Governments for a First Examination: Sales and Innkeepers’ Liability.

On August 23rd, 1935, the Secretary-General transmitted to Governments, with a request for any observations they might wish to make, the preliminary drafts of (a) an international law

¹ Document C.222.M.162.1937.V.
on sales, and (b) a uniform law on innkeepers' liability, together with the accompanying explanatory reports.

Nearly all Governments have replied. For the most part, they are in favour of the two preliminary drafts. The Yugoslav Government, however, does not feel able, at the present time, to undertake obligations of this kind. The United Kingdom Government, also, has reserved its opinion.

The Institute is making a detailed study of these replies. The Committees of Experts on the two preliminary drafts will be convened as soon as possible to revise the texts in the light of the observations and suggestions made.

Arbitration.

In accordance with the decision of the Governing Body of the Institute, the new text of the preliminary draft international law on arbitration in private law, drawn up by the Committee of Experts at its meeting from July 30th to August 1st, 1936, was transmitted to the International Chamber of Commerce for further consideration. After a preliminary examination of the draft had been made by its Committee for the Study of International Commercial Arbitration, the International Chamber of Commerce, at its Ninth Congress, held at Berlin (June 28th to July 3rd, 1937), approved the preliminary draft, in regard to which, however, it made certain suggestions. The Committee of Experts of the Institute will meet again to revise the text of the preliminary draft on the basis of these suggestions.

Civil Liability and Compulsory Insurance of Motorists.

Continuing its work, the Committee of Experts held its third session at Rome from November 23rd to 26th, 1936, and its fourth session at Abbazia from May 6th to 9th, 1937.

At these meetings, it drew up the texts of preliminary drafts on the civil liability and compulsory insurance of motorists, and reports commenting on and explaining these preliminary drafts.

These documents have been transmitted to the Communications and Transit Organisation, which was already represented on the Committee, for its opinion on the two drafts.
Contracts between Absent Persons.

The Committee of Experts on Contracts concluded between Absent Persons, which had already drawn up the final text of the preliminary draft of an international law regarding the conclusion of contracts between absent persons decided, at its meeting on October 2nd and 3rd, 1936, upon the final text of the explanatory statement accompanying the preliminary draft.

Contracts concluded by Agents.

At its session on September 30th, 1935, the Governing Body decided to study the question of contracts concluded by agents, which involves a number of subjects of special importance to international trade.

The Institute drew up a preliminary report of comparative law on this question, supplemented by a questionnaire.

The Committee of Experts set up to study this question met for the first time from April 5th to 7th, 1937. It reached decisions of principle on the various points submitted to it in the questionnaire. On the basis of these decisions, the Institute will draw up a preliminary draft uniform law.

Intellectual Rights.

The Institute took part in the annual session, held at Paris on June 11th, 1937, of the Committee comprising the international institutions dealing with intellectual rights.

The Institute's Committee of Experts on Intellectual Rights met on April 4th, 1937, and examined the work done in this field.

General Convention on Authors' Rights. — The International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation and the Rome International Institute for the Unification of Private Law considered it desirable to create forthwith, more especially on the American continent, an atmosphere propitious to the success of this work. The two Institutes accordingly invited the delegates of the American countries accredited in France to meet together for the purpose of taking cognisance of the present position of the problem. A meeting was held on November 23rd, 1936, at Paris, at the seat of the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation.
On the strength of the suggestions made by a Committee of Experts which met at Paris in April 1936 on the initiative of the Rome and Paris Institutes, and of a proposal by the Brazilian Government, the Belgian Government has decided to convene, in connection with the Conference for the Revision of the Berne Convention to be held at Brussels, a diplomatic conference whose task it will be to draw up a general Convention on authors’ rights. All Governments will be invited to attend this Conference, whether they are bound by any of the Conventions in force or not.

The technical stage of the preparatory work may be regarded as completed. The views of the American Governments on the proposals submitted to them must now be obtained.

Translators’ Rights. — With the help of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, the Rome Institute is continuing its studies in regard to translators’ rights.

At its eighth session (April 1935), the Governing Body of the Institute recognised the desirability of studying the chief types of contract in force in this matter. This study is being carried out in collaboration with the International Confederation of Authors’ and Composers’ Societies.

Performers’ Rights. — At its ninety-third session (September 25th, 1936), the League Council decided, as the outcome of the resolution of the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, to draw the attention of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to the advisability of placing the question of performers’ rights on the agenda of a forthcoming International Labour Conference at the earliest possible moment, and requested the Secretary-General to bring the matter to the notice of the International Labour Office.

The Governing Body of the International Labour Office took up the question in November 1936 and passed it as suitable for inclusion in the 1938 agenda of the International Labour Conference.

At its session in February 1937, it approved the procedure suggested by the Director for the subsequent examination of the question.

The Committee of Experts of the Institute re-examined the question in its turn at its meeting on April 4th, 1937. It considered
that, in view of the official proposals already submitted, the international protection of performers' rights would doubtless be placed on the agenda of the Brussels Diplomatic Conference for the Revision of the Berne Convention. It also decided to draw the attention of the International Labour Office to the matter and to urge the latter to consider whether it would not be possible for the work to be completed within the framework of the International Labour Organisation before the Brussels Conference, or, if necessary, for the Labour Office to take an active part in the work of the Diplomatic Conference for the Revision of the Berne Convention.

This decision was supported by a recommendation made by the Committee of International Institutions dealing with Intellectual Rights (Paris, June 11th, 1937).

**Maintenance Obligations.**

The Institute has continued its work on the question of maintenance obligations. The first meeting of the Committee of Experts set up for the purpose of framing a preliminary draft international convention on the enforcement of maintenance obligations abroad, which was postponed last year, will be held at the beginning of August next.

**Other Questions under Consideration.**

The Institute is continuing its work on the effects of clearing agreements in private law.

After an exchange of views with the International Chamber of Commerce, the Institute decided not to go into the question of regulating documentary credit transactions by a uniform law.

The Committee for the Study of Contracts for International Loans set up by the League Council in pursuance of the Assembly's resolution of September 28th, 1936, decided at its second session (May 5th-8th, 1937) upon co-operation with the Institute. Two tasks have been entrusted to the Institute: to study the possibility of compiling an international code of uniform rules for international loans, and to examine the question of the representation of holders under the various legislations in relation to loan clauses.
Changes in the Organic Statute and Regulations.

In view of the League Council’s request that it should consider the expediency of amending its Organic Statute and Regulations, the Governing Body, at its session on October 4th, 1936, agreed to certain changes designed to ensure the continuity of the Institute’s work.

These changes have been transmitted to the Secretary-General of the League, who will submit them for approval to the League Council.

* * *

At the beginning of the year, the Institute suffered a very severe loss by the death of M. Giuseppe Righetti, its Secretary-General, who was killed in an aeroplane accident.

* * *

The Governing Body held its tenth session on October 4th, 1936, and its eleventh session on April 4th, 1937.
19.

PRESENT SITUATION WITH REGARD TO INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETARIAT OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

REGISTRATION AND PUBLICATION OF TREATIES AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS.

(Article 18 of the Covenant.)

As in previous years, the registration of treaties by the Secretariat has been carried out according to the method laid down by the memorandum approved by the Council of the League of Nations on May 19th, 1920.

Between May 19th, 1920, and May 19th, 1937, 4,113 treaties and international engagements have been submitted for registration, 215 of which were submitted during the period between May 19th, 1936, and May 19th, 1937.

The treaties registered have, as in previous years, dealt with various subjects, as may be seen by consulting the following list, which gives a general idea of the character of the agreements registered during the period in question. Some of the treaties mentioned in the list, dealing at once with several subjects, may be classified under several heads.

_Treaties of Peace, Friendship, Alliance, etc._

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration No.</th>
<th>Parties</th>
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<tr>
<td>4031</td>
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<tr>
<td>4044</td>
<td>Sa'udi Arabia and Iraq.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4063</td>
<td>Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4066</td>
<td>China and Latvia.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Political Treaties.

Registration No.
4015 General Convention.
4092 Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Italy.
4112 Great Britain and Northern Ireland and France.

Consular Conventions, Conventions concerning Conditions of Residence and Similar Questions.

Registration No.
3899 Spain and Irish Free State.
3917 France and Latvia.
3918 Czechoslovakia and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Judicial and Extradition Conventions.

Registration No.
3900 Roumania and Czechoslovakia.
3906 Luxemburg and Czechoslovakia.
3922 Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Denmark.
3923 Sweden and Switzerland.
3925 Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Lithuania.
3928 Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Hungary.
3942 United States of America and Iraq.
3943 United States of America and Poland.
3949 Czechoslovakia and Monaco.
3960 Great Britain and Northern Ireland and France.
3964 Denmark and Japan.
3990 United States of America and France.
3991 United States of America and Denmark.
3992 Belgium and Italy.
4020 Belgium and Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
4038 Colombia and Cuba.
4073 France and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
4111 Poland and Czechoslovakia.
Private Law.

Registration No.
3965  Belgium and France.
4064  Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Iraq.

Military Questions and Similar Questions.

Registration No.
3926  Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Union of South Africa and India and Iraq.
3971  United States of America and Brazil.
4032  Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Egypt.
4057  United States of America and Brazil.

Naval Questions.

Registration No.
4025  Proces-verbal (General).
4102  Germany and Brazil.

Air Navigation.

Registration No.
3975  Hungary and the Netherlands.
3999  Estonia and Finland.
4016  France and Hungary.
4033  Hungary and Switzerland.

Commerce, Navigation and Customs.

Registration No.
3908  Spain and Poland.
3910  United States of America and Canada.
3912  Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg and Bulgaria.
3915  Estonia and Latvia.
3919  Austria and Hungary.
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<tr>
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<td>United States of America and Guatemala.</td>
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<td>Guatemala and Sweden.</td>
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<td>3998</td>
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<td>4008</td>
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</table>
Commerce, Navigation and Customs (continued).

Registration No.

4029  Germany and Czechoslovakia.
4030  Bulgaria and Sweden.
4035  Germany and the Netherlands.
4039  Greece and Sweden.
4041  Chile and Sweden.
4046  Germany and Denmark.
4047  Germany and Denmark.
4055  Norway and Uruguay.
4056  Brazil and Norway.
4058  Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay.
4059  Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Egypt.
4061  Estonia and Sweden.
4062  General Convention.
4065  France and Sweden.
4075  Brazil and Uruguay.
4076  United States of America and France.
4079  Brazil and Hungary.
4081  The Netherlands and Poland.
4082  Chile and the Netherlands.
4089  Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Italy.
4091  Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Iraq.
4093  Australia and Czechoslovakia.
4094  Australia and Economic Union of Belgium and Luxemburg.
4095  Australia and France.
4097  Italy and Norway.
4101  Belgium and Norway.
4104  Italy and Latvia.

Economic and Financial Conventions and Conventions regarding Taxes.

Registration No.

3901  Roumania and Czechoslovakia.
3902  Roumania and Czechoslovakia.
3903  Roumania and Czechoslovakia.
3904  Roumania and Czechoslovakia.
Economic and Financial Conventions and Conventions regarding Taxes (continued).

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Economic and Financial Conventions
and Conventions regarding Taxes (continued).

Registration No.
4070 Iran and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
4071 Iran and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
4088 Poland and Czechoslovakia.
4090 Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Italy.
4098 Italy and Norway.
4099 Italy and Norway.
4103 Italy and Latvia.
4110 Belgium and Norway.

Hunting and Fisheries.

Registration No.
3979 Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

General Relations.

Registration No.
4069 Iran and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Property, Rights and Interests.

Registration No.
3988 Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Iraq.

Delimitation of Frontiers, Frontier Traffic and Similar Questions.

Registration No.
3953 Dominican Republic and Haiti.
3994 Estonia and Latvia.
4022 Commonwealth of Australia and the Netherlands
4026 Ecuador and Peru.
4027 Poland and Roumania.
4028 Poland and Roumania.
4087 Brazil and Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
Transit.

Registration No.
3972  Germany and Austria.
3987  Finland and Hungary.
4034  Germany and the Netherlands.
4084  The Netherlands and Switzerland.

Tonnage Measurement.

Registration No.
4012  Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Norway

Waterways and Inland Navigation.

Registration No.
4042  Roumania and Yugoslavia.

Administrative Questions.

Registration No.
3948  Germany and Denmark.
3958  Germany and Denmark.
4074  Brazil and Poland.

Social and Labour Questions and Questions concerning Refugees.

Registration No.
3947  Germany and Denmark.
3952  General Arrangement.
3954  Sweden and Czechoslovakia.
3959  Sweden and Switzerland.
4014  Denmark and Sweden.
4043  Austria and Sweden.
4096  Egypt.
Sanitary Questions.

Registration No.
3907 Argentine Republic and Denmark.
3937 Australia and French Indo-China.
4007 Albania and Italy.
4011 France and the Netherlands.
4072 Iran and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
4080 General Convention.
4086 Brazil and Sweden.

Intellectual and Artistic Relations.

Registration No.
3920 Chile and Spain.
3921 Spain and Peru.
3933 Bolivia and Spain.
4085 Brazil and Uruguay.
4113 Poland and Roumania.

Postal, Telephonic, Telegraphic and Radiotelegraphic Conventions.

Registration No.
3905 Bulgaria and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
3911 Germany and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
3914 United States of America and Colombia.
3927 China and Malaya.
3931 Egypt and Malaya.
3932 Greece and Palestine.
3950 Estonia and Finland.
3955 United States of America and France.
3977 France and Palestine.
4024 Great Britain and Northern Ireland and China.
4040 Denmark and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
4045 Latvia and Sweden.
4048 General Convention.
4049 General Arrangement.
4050 General Arrangement.
4051 General Arrangement.
4052 General Arrangement.
4053 General Arrangement.
Postal, Telephonic, Telegraphic, and Radiotelegraphic Conventions (continued).

Registration No.

4054 General Arrangement.
4077 United States of America and Bahamas.
4078 United States of America and Gibraltar.
4083 Belgium and the Netherlands.
4105 Estonia and Finland.
4106 Estonia and Sweden.
4107 France and India.
4108 Haiti and Jamaica.
4109 Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Free City of Danzig.

Narcotic Drugs.

Registration No.

3930 France and India.
4100 General Agreement.

The following table gives the number of treaties registered by the Secretariat at the request of the various States during the period from May 19th, 1936, to May 19th, 1937:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<td>Albania</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
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<td>Austria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Britain and Northern Ireland</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
International engagements concluded under the auspices of the League of Nations, deposited with the Secretariat and registered in consequence of their entry into force.

The Secretariat has also registered many accessions, ratifications, denunciations, etc., concerning Conventions previously registered at the request of various States.

It has also registered further information relating to general Conventions which it had already published.

International engagements are published in the Treaty Series in their original languages, with translations into French and English, when they have not been drawn up in one of those two languages.

Up to the present, 172 volumes of about 450 pages each, containing 4,000 treaties, have been published by the Secretariat. Other volumes will appear in the near future.
20.

LIBRARY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The League Library moved during 1936 to the new building due to the generosity of Mr. John D. Rockefeller junior. The collections of books, periodicals, Government documents, etc., had been transported gradually, and so the last part of the removal was undertaken with very little disturbance to the service. The reading-room in the old building was closed on September 15th, 1936, and a new reading-room was opened in the new building on the 17th of the same month. The final part of the removal took place with only one day’s interruption of the services for the Secretariat and one day’s interruption of the loan and information bureau.

Outside readers studying international questions, and properly recommended, received authorisation, as in the past, to study in the Library. There were 52 of these in September, 19 in October, 37 in November and 15 in December. In 1937, 62 new readers’ cards were issued in January, 52 in February, 32 in March, 45 in April, 30 in May and 53 in June. Total new readers’ cards in the first six months of 1937 numbered 274.

An important collection of forty-eight original drawings, portraits of delegates, members of the Secretariat and observers and visitors to Assembly meetings, by Miss Violet Oakley, was offered to the Library for its museum collection by an American Committee of Friends of the League of Nations. The Union of Associations for the League of Nations presented the Library with an important collection of books and pamphlets on minorities.

Exchanges of a considerable number of periodicals against League publications were arranged, in collaboration with various Sections of the Secretariat. The number of periodicals regularly received in the Library now exceeds 2,600. The number of annual
publications received is 1,250, of which 250 are law volumes. To these figures have to be added the number of periodical Government publications, which comprise 2,500 annual publications, 1,300 monthly and weekly publications and about 125 official gazettes.

The Mixed Committee for the purchase of books for the Libraries of the League and the International Labour Office has met regularly and succeeded in avoiding duplication in the purchase of books.

Besides the regular printed periodical bibliographies, the following roneographed bibliographies have appeared: list of works on peaceful change (raw materials, population, colonies); list of economic and financial periodicals regularly received in the Library; annotated bibliography on legal questions concerning international loans.

The indexing of the child welfare laws of different countries and of periodical literature on this question was taken up again. A special room for the collections concerning this and kindred subjects was installed, similar to the already existing legal and political, economic and financial, and health rooms.

Collaboration and the exchange of services and publications were established or renewed with the following institutions among others: Bank for International Settlements (Basle); Geneva Research Centre; Institut international de droit public (Paris); Institut international de coopération intellectuelle (Paris); Institut de droit comparé de l'Université de Paris; Centre d'études de politique étrangère (Paris); Institut des sciences sociales et des relations internationales (Lyon); Institut international d'agriculture (Rome); International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Rome); Istituto di Politica Internazionali (Milan); Royal Institute of International Affairs (London); London School of Economics; New Commonwealth Institute (London); New Zealand Institute of International Affairs (Wellington); Commission nationale chinoise pour la coopération intellectuelle (Shanghai); Foreign Policy Association (New York); Pan-American Union (Washington); Institute of Pacific Relations (Honolulu); Institut für Weltwirtschaft (Kiel); Hochschule für Politik (Berlin); Institut für Ausländisches öffentliches Recht und Völkerrecht (Berlin).