ANNEX 1.

EVACUATION OF ARMENIAN REFUGEES FROM GREECE.

MEMORANDUM FROM THE GREEK GOVERNMENT SUBMITTED TO THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ATTACHED TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

The Greek Government desires to direct the serious attention of the Advisory Commission for Refugees to the hopeless situation created owing to the last Assembly's decision to discontinue for the moment its connection with the scheme for the return of Armenian refugees to the Republic of Erivan.

As the Commission is aware, after the catastrophe in Asia Minor, despite the insurmountable difficulties connected with the settlement of 1,500,000 Greek refugees, the Greek Government offered ready hospitality to upwards of 100,000 Armenians; the cost of transport, temporary settlement and relief to the victims of the disasters consequent on the great war amounted to some £280,000 sterling—a charge upon Greek taxpayers.

It would be difficult to estimate exactly the subsequent burdens which Greece has been obliged to assume and is still bearing as the result of the influx into her territory of so many thousands of Armenian refugees. Apart from the detrimental effect on the national economy of the presence of individuals who are obliged to engage in parasitic occupations in order to earn a bare subsistence, and apart from the increase in unemployment, the 33,000 Armenians still in Greece constitute a serious obstacle to the final settlement of Greek refugees. To mention the refugee quarters in the neighbourhood of the capital alone, 600 houses are at present occupied by 594 Armenian families (about 3,000 persons), while thousands of Greek refugees are homeless awaiting relief which the slow and difficult application of the programme for the settlement of urban families will not be able to provide for some time.

Everyone realises how impossible it is for the Greek Government to provide work for the Armenian refugees or to arrange for their definite settlement in Greece: Dr. Nansen, the prompter of one of the greatest attempts to bring about co-operation between peoples was the first to recognise this situation.

Trusting that something would be done by the League of Nations, which in 1924 congratulated the Greek Government and nation "on the admirable efforts which they have made on behalf of the Armenians", Greece has been waiting patiently since then for their evacuation to become a practical reality. The Assembly's decision to discontinue its connection with the scheme for the return of these refugees to the Republic of Erivan has accordingly caused the Government legitimate anxiety.

Faithful to the liberal and humanitarian principles of which it has given such signal proof in the past, the Greek Government has refrained from resorting to immediate evacuation. This is no reason, however, why it should continue to bear the burden entailed by what it has always regarded and will always regard as purely temporary hospitality.

From the 33,000 Armenian refugees referred to above, who are still in Greece, should be deducted the 600 families (about 3,000 persons) who have applied for and obtained Greek nationality, leaving 30,000 persons to be transferred to other countries, if the intolerable situation at present existing in Greece is to be remedied.

The Armenians, moreover, would have everything to gain from such a transfer, since, for the various reasons already discussed and noted hereunder, they can have no hope of settling definitely in the country:

1. Assimilation by the resident population is impossible owing to the large influx of Greek refugees (the Armenians themselves are opposed to such assimilation and always regard Greece as a purely temporary home);

-2. Lack of room, etc.

The Greek Government realises that by appointing a representative on the Advisory Commission it has assumed a moral obligation to examine the complex questions relating to the refugees from a general standpoint, with a view to arriving at comprehensive solutions likely to ensure their definite settlement under better conditions than at present.

It does not feel itself, however, to be departing in any way from this policy in applying to the Commission to study means for the speedy evacuation of the 30,000 Armenian refugees now on Greek soil. On the contrary, in so doing it is exhibiting a proper interest in the fate of these unhappy war victims in regard to whom the Greek people have amply fulfilled their duty as members of society.

The Greek Government, moreover, has come to this decision simply because it realises how impossible it would be to contemplate for these particular refugees any one of the three radical solutions examined by the Commission at its First Session in May 1929.

The Greek Government, although it has always given careful consideration to applications for naturalisation from Armenians, could not naturalise the latter en bloc, any more than it
could exert pressure on them to apply for a favour which, as the Advisory Commission agrees, cannot be granted indiscriminately to every applicant. The naturalisation of the 600 families referred to above was a purely exceptional measure, fortified mainly by the certainty that the persons concerned would not become a burden upon the national economy.

Again, neither reintegration in the nationality of their country of origin nor a return to that country could be regarded as a practical solution in this particular case, for the simple reason that a Turkish law has been passed depriving all Armenian emigrants without distinction of Ottoman nationality.

The Greek Government, therefore, cannot regard the evacuation of Armenian refugees as coming within the category of "various urgent problems concerning the refugees in certain countries", one of the items of the agenda of the Second Session of the Advisory Commission.

In the Government's view one problem, and that an extremely urgent one, has to be considered: the transfer to other countries of the 30,000 Armenians still in Greece. The Government feels, moreover, that this problem comes essentially within the scope of the Advisory Commission's deliberations and the activities of the High Commissioner's office, for no other calls more urgently for solution.

This question of the settlement of the Armenians in the Republic of Erivan should perhaps be examined in conjunction with the possibility of encouraging their emigration to South America or other countries which have suffered less than Greece from the mass influx of refugees.

The Greek Government has empowered its delegate, M. Raphaël, to discuss the various features of this urgent problem with the other members of the Commission. While fully determined to persevere in its efforts for a gradual improvement of the present situation by means of independent action, the Government would nevertheless urge the undoubted advantages of action taken under the auspices of the League of Nations.

Berne, April 28th, 1930.

ANNEX 2.

A.VI/1.1930.

SLAVERY.

LETTER AND MEMORANDUM FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SUBMITTED TO THE SIXTH COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 23RD, 1930.

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Henderson to transmit to you herewith copies of a Memorandum by the British Delegation on the subject of slavery.

I am to request that copies of this Memorandum may be circulated to the members of the Sixth Committee.

(Signed) Alexander CADOGAN.

MEMORANDUM.

It is unfortunately indisputable that slavery, that is to say the exercise of rights of ownership over human beings, still exists in many parts of the world. In its mildest form the status of the slave is little inferior to that of his free neighbour and his life is reasonably comfortable; at its worst the slave becomes a chattel of no more importance than any other domestic animal, to be treated with no more consideration than is necessary to preserve his ability to work.

It is sometimes urged that slavery is not an institution lightly to be abolished, since slaves are normally well cared for and are probably far happier than they would be if left to their own resources. In many cases this may perhaps be true. Unfortunately it is equally true that the exercise of ownership over other human beings is a power that is too often abused by callous, or, sometimes, by deliberately cruel masters. Moreover, such reasoning ignores entirely the one essential fact, which is that slavery, whatever its form, is invariably a pernicious system, injurious alike morally and economically to the country that tolerates it. Further, as long as slavery exists so long will the slave trade with all the possible horrors of slave-raiding also exist.

The truth of this principle has long been acknowledged by enlightened opinion throughout the world. The General Acts of the Conference at Berlin in 1885 and at Brussels in 1890, no less than the Convention of St. Germain-en-Laye of 1919, have pointed to the abolition of slavery as one of the aims which must be kept steadfastly in view in the guardianship of the less advanced races. It was in the same spirit that the Slavery Convention of 1926 was drawn up.

That this great ideal has not yet been achieved is due rather to the very real difficulties, social, religious and economic, which have to be overcome than to any indifference on the part of the authorities concerned. It appears to His Majesty's Government that these difficulties
would be very appreciably reduced if there were in existence some permanent organisation established under the authority of the League of Nations which would be in a position to collect trustworthy information regarding slavery as it exists to-day.

The proposal of His Majesty's Government is that a Permanent Slavery Commission should be established, composed of members serving in an expert and not a representative capacity, and not holding any office which puts them in a position of direct dependence on their Governments. In addition to this Commission, an International Office should be established at Geneva to serve as an information bureau on slavery, and to prepare from time to time for the use of the Commission reports which would be treated as confidential unless and until the Commission decided to communicate them to the Government concerned, or to give them other publicity. The Commission would examine the communications received from Governments in pursuance of Article 7 of the Slavery Convention, as well as the confidential reports prepared by the International Office. The Commission would be empowered to invite representatives of Governments whether parties to the Slavery Convention or not, to offer any explanations or information which the Commission might desire, and, with the consent of the Government concerned, to conduct investigations on the spot. The Commission would report to the Council.

The great need for such an organisation is, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, all the more evident since it has proved impossible by any method hitherto adopted either to secure adequate information on this subject or to assess the value of such information as is available. The Assembly of the League in September last instructed the Secretary-General to collect from the members of the League, and from those non-member States which are parties to the Slavery Convention of September 25th, 1926, all possible information on the present position of slavery, and to report to the next Assembly. His Majesty's Government have reason to believe that the information received by the Secretary-General in response to this enquiry has been exceedingly meagre, if indeed any has been sent at all. This negative result is not in the circumstances surprising since the Secretariat is in no way equipped for such an enquiry; and in view of the evident failure of the method adopted by the last Assembly, His Majesty's Government are the more firmly convinced of the necessity of setting up at Geneva some such body as is herein proposed.

The establishment of such an organisation at Geneva is perfectly natural, since the League has always taken a deep interest in all questions affecting the welfare of the less advanced races in all parts of the world, and since the Slavery Convention of 1926 was in fact drawn up under the auspices of the League.

The abolition of slavery throughout the world is an ideal which must lie very near the heart of every Government, and His Majesty's Government most earnestly hope that their proposal, which seems to them to offer the prospect of very considerable practical advantages, will meet with general acceptance.


RUSSIAN, ARMENIAN, ASSYRIAN, ASSYRO-CHALDEAN AND TURKISH REFUGEES.

REPORT BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE SUBMITTED TO THE SIXTH COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 24TH, 1930.

The question of the future organisation of refugee work, on which the Assembly has to give a decision, was described in two reports on which the Sixth Committee has based its enquiry—i.e., the report drawn up by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations in accordance with the instructions given to him by the last Assembly, and the report of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission for Refugees.

The first of these reports came to the conclusion that there are two separate aspects of refugee work: in the first place, a juridical aspect relating to legal protection, civil rights and the status of refugees, as defined by several Inter-Governmental Arrangements negotiated at Geneva; in the second place, a humanitarian aspect relating to the maintenance of the refugees, relief employment, and the finding of work.

The Secretary-General saw no administrative objection to the political and legal duties being discharged as in the past by the regular organs of the League. On the other hand, he emphasised the fact the humanitarian work involved various day-to-day problems of application which were hardly compatible with the normal activities of the Secretariat.

In the Inter-Governmental Commission several Governments and the representatives of the refugees themselves strongly urged that the Secretariat should continue to supervise the legal protection of the refugees. The Inter-Governmental Commission gave a definite decision in favour of a division of functions, and it proposed to entrust the humanitarian side of the work for the protection of refugees to an international office with headquarters at Geneva and placed under the direction of the League of Nations, on the basis of the principles of Article 24 of the Covenant.

The Sixth Committee also agreed with the principle of the division of functions on the lines indicated by the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission. However, before taking
the responsibility of recommending the Assembly to adopt this solution, it instructed five of its members, formed into a sub-committee, to investigate more closely the conditions under which the proposed Office would be constituted and would work.

In accordance with the instructions received from the Sixth Committee, the Sub-Committee devoted its attention in the first place to examining the possible consequences in practice of distinguishing between the aspects of refugee work which have hitherto been combined. It was anxious to obtain all authoritative opinions on this subject. The enquiry which it undertook has led to the following conclusions:

(1) The reorganisation of the work as contemplated by the Secretary-General and the Advisory Commission is possible and could be easily carried out;

(2) No new burden will be placed on the League of Nations by this reorganisation. As the Secretary-General has stated that he is in a position to carry on the legal part of the refugee work without supplementary credits, the sums allocated by the Assembly up to the present for the protection of refugees will be sufficient to establish the International Office and to provide for its working;

(3) The possible disadvantages of dividing into two compartments the refugees service can be avoided in practice: in countries which have requested that the delegates of the League of Nations should be retained for the legal protection of refugees, there is nothing to prevent the League giving the necessary authorisation to the correspondents of the International Office; the present position will therefore not be changed; in other countries the correspondents of the Office will have to keep in close touch with the national authorities in charge of refugee questions; in order to facilitate this co-operation the Office will be requested to appoint, whenever possible, a national official as its correspondent in each of the countries concerned.

Secondly, the Sub-Committee endeavoured to ascertain what the statutes of the future International Office should be. It was of opinion that the framing of these statutes was a technical matter which should be left to experts.

It therefore thought that the best course to adopt would be to recommend the Assembly to instruct a person distinguished for his legal knowledge and enjoying high international authority to frame draft statutes on the general lines indicated by the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission for Refugees in its report to the Assembly (document A.34, par. II). It considered that no one was better qualified in all respects to act as expert, and later as Chairman of the Governing Body of the International Office, than M. Max Huber, President of the International Red Cross Committee and member and former President of the Permanent Court of International Justice. With M. Huber's approval, the Sub-Committee puts his name before you and suggests that you propose it to the Assembly.

In order to obviate a postponement of the definitive constitution of the Office until next year, the Assembly might, moreover, instruct the Council of the League to consider the draft which M. Huber will submit to it and to put the statutes into force.

The guiding principles indicated by the Advisory Commission are, moreover, sufficiently precise to enable the character of the Office and the nature of its activities to be very clearly determined. The International Office, while attached to the League of Nations, which have called it into being, by the grant that it receives and by the obligation to lay its accounts together with an annual report before the League, will enjoy that freedom of action and independence which are indispensable for carrying out the very complicated relief work that is entrusted to it. Administered by a body in which the Governments, the Secretariat of the League, the International Labour Office and the private refugee organisations are represented, it will combine in a common effort all the authorities interested. In essence, it will be a body regulating the various national activities on behalf of the refugees. Its principal duty will be to co-ordinate these activities and to facilitate relations between them.

In order to accomplish its task more readily, it may maintain correspondents in the various countries interested in the refugees question. However, for reasons which have been indicated above, it will be asked to entrust the duties in question in the several countries to a national official whom the Government will designate to it. This method will possess the further advantage of keeping down the general expenses of the Office.

The budget, to ensure the continuation of the relief work and the work of finding employment for the refugees, will consist of the funds mentioned on page 8 of the Secretary-General's Report: proceeds of the sale of Nansen stamps, recovery of advances, contribution from associations and private persons. Generally speaking, the International Office will take over all the assets and all the liabilities of the League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

It seems also reasonable and desirable that the "private fund" collected by Dr. Nansen should be paid over to the International Office.

The Assembly will obviously desire to grant the customary notice and compensation to officials who at present form part of the League of Nations Refugees Service, in so far as the International Office cannot make use of their services.
As the International Office is to take the place of the present Refugees Service and the League of Nations, it will be for the Office itself to decide whether, as has been suggested, an appeal should be made, in memory of Dr. Nansen, to private charity with a view to obtaining additional funds from this source. The Sub-Committee therefore has not thought it desirable to ask the Committee to express any opinion on this point, nor on the advisability of a special appeal on behalf of refugee children, the generous intention of which appeal it nevertheless appreciates.

Apart from the question of the reorganisation of the Refugees Service, the Sub-Committee examined the various points to which the Inter-Governmental Commission directed the attention of the Assembly.

It felt called upon to indicate to the Committee the importance of again recommending the Governments that have not yet adopted the Nansen stamp system to do so now, as the general extension of this system would increase the funds at the disposal of the International Office, would thereby add to its means of action, and would in this way hasten the final settlement of the refugee organisation.

It also regarded with special sympathy the statement made by the Greek Government as to its position in regard to the refugees, and it draws the attention of the Office in advance to the measures necessitated by this state of affairs.

As regards the various recommendations of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission which relate to the application of the Inter-Governmental arrangements and the position of disabled ex-service men, it would appear that the Assembly might usefully call upon the Council to instruct the Secretary-General to transmit these recommendations to the Governments concerned.

Finally, now that the work for the protection of the refugees is being reorganised, the Sub-Committee cannot avoid a reference to the past; it has desired to pay a last tribute to the unforgettable creator and inspirer of this undertaking. With this homage to the memory of Dr. Nansen it associates his coadjutors, who are now continuing his work, and it recommends that the future International Office should make use of their experience and their zeal, and thus successfully carry through an undertaking which reflects the greatest honour on the League of Nations and on mankind.

The Sub-Committee therefore proposes that the Committee should submit to the Assembly the following draft resolution:

The Assembly,

(1) Recalling the work accomplished by Dr. Fridtjof Nansen on behalf of the refugees and mindful of the zeal with which he strove to unite the nations in the cause of peace, pays a solemn tribute of gratitude to the memory of one of the best servants of the League,

(2) Notes the report of the Secretary-General and the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission for Refugees,

(3) Decides to entrust to the regular organs of the League of Nations the political and legal protection of the refugees under the conditions indicated by the Inter-Governmental Commission,

(4) Decides to entrust, during the period in which the Refugees Organisation is being wound up, the humanitarian duties hitherto undertaken by the High Commissioner to an International Refugees Office placed under the direction of the League of Nations, on the basis of the principles of Article 24 of the Covenant.

(5) Entrusts to M. Max Huber, whom it thanks for his willingness to undertake the duty, the work of preparing, in accordance with the guiding principles laid down in the report of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission, a draft statute for the International Office which will be submitted for approval to the Council of the League of Nations, and requests him to take over the duties of Chairman of the Governing Body of the Office.

(6) Grants the International Office for 1931 a subsidy of 333,800 gold francs.

(7) Draws the attention of Governments to the importance of a general extension of the system of Nansen stamps.

(8) Leaves the Office full freedom to take all decisions in regard to appeals for funds made to private charity, particularly on behalf of refugee children.

(9) Expresses the desire that one of the first tasks of the Office will be to examine the situation of Armenian refugees in Greece.

(10) Requests the Council to communicate to Governments the recommendations adopted by the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission in regard to the application of the Inter-Governmental Arrangements and the situation of Russian refugees who are disabled ex-service men, and,

(11) Recommends that the International Office should as far as possible make use of the experience of the present staff of the Refugees Service.
ANNEX 4.

SLAVERY.

Draft Resolution proposed by M. A. Sottile, Delegate of Liberia

The Sixth Committee, expressing its appreciation to the British delegation for its noble initiative relative to the creation of a Permanent Commission on Slavery and of an International Office, recognises that it is desirable to make new efforts with a view to ensuring the complete application of the Slavery Convention and the despatch to the Secretariat of the League of Nations of sufficient reports and information on this matter.

Being unable to agree to the creation of the two proposed institutions, it recommends that the Governments concerned should examine the possibility of laying the matter before an International Enquiry Commission, on their own initiative and by their own decision, similar to the Commission formed by the Liberian Government and supported by the Council of the League of Nations.

ANNEX 5.

PROTECTION OF MINORITIES.

Draft Report of the Sixth Committee to the Assembly.

Rapporteur: M. Motta (Switzerland).

In consequence of the resolution adopted by the Assembly on the motion of the German delegation, the Sixth Committee has devoted three of its meetings to the question of minorities. A large number of delegates spoke during the discussion. I should like, first of all, to emphasise the high level of the debates maintained by all the speakers in expressing their views, and to state that the discussion of such an essentially delicate subject was conducted throughout with the utmost friendliness and courtesy on all sides.

The discussion brought to light very marked differences of opinion both on questions of principle and on questions of procedure. I do not think there is any need now to go into these differences in detail; they can be clearly seen in the speeches recorded in the Committee's records.

One of these differences concerns the general question whether the Assembly—and consequently the Sixth Committee—is competent to discuss the guarantee that the League has assumed on behalf of the minorities in the so-called minority treaties. Some members maintained that the Assembly is competent because it is the supreme organ of the League, while others observed that the minority treaties have entrusted the question exclusively to the Council. All the delegates agreed, however, that the question of minorities could be discussed by the Assembly in virtue of Article 3, paragraph 3, of the Covenant of the League.

Without dwelling too long on the differences of opinion, I shall try to select from the debate a few general ideas on which I gained the impression that we were all agreed.

All the delegates laid stress upon the capital importance of the minorities problem. All agreed that it is one of the problems which may affect the peace of the world. All emphasised the fact that the problem is worldwide and concerns the whole of mankind. All the delegations look upon respect for religion, language and culture as sacred. Unanimity on this point is a fact of fundamental importance.

All the speakers without exception referred to the procedure introduced by a unanimous vote of the Council at its Madrid session of June 13th, 1929. Opinions differ as to whether the Council has authority to alter that procedure without the consent of all the States which are bound by the minority treaties. It was observed that this question is perhaps more theoretical than really practical. In spite of certain criticisms nobody maintained that the Madrid procedure, which has materially improved the internal procedure, should be altered at the present juncture. It was generally recognised that the time that has elapsed since its adoption was not long enough to allow of a final judgment based on experience. All agreed that the Council should continue to take all the action that was possible under the procedure in force.

In the course of the debate I had occasion to point out that the duties of Rapporteur to the Council on minority questions have always been entrusted to representatives of non-European countries—Brazil, Colombia and now Japan. We were unanimous in our appreciation of the valuable services that those countries have rendered and are rendering in this matter to the cause of a good understanding among the European peoples.

The view that the system of protection should be generalised and extended to all minorities, whether protected by special treaties or not, was emphasised by a number of speakers. It is not for me, as Rapporteur, to express an opinion, because on this point the views and feelings
of different members of the Committee are clearly divided. There did, however, appear to
be unanimity on one point, namely, that the existence of the minority treaties, and the fact
that the League has to ensure and does ensure their application, are contributing to the
development of a new spirit. This spirit, even without any legal engagement, is gradually
extending, at any rate morally, both to States which have undertaken treaty obligations and
to those which have not.

All the speakers, even though upholding different views, expressed the opinion that the
solution of the minorities problem was to be found in constant co-operation and mutual
confidence between the majorities and minorities in each country. It is most satisfactory
to note the statements made on this subject by several distinguished speakers of eminent
authority. The discussion in the Sixth Committee would have been of real value, even if
this had been its only result. The main idea brought out by the debates was co-operation
between majorities and minorities. Majorities must be just and generous, and minorities
must be loyal. Governments must constantly endeavour to smooth the way for mutual
understanding and confidence and for co-operation between the majority and the minority.

The discussion in the Sixth Committee also touched upon the objects for which the
minority treaties were intended. It would be unwise to dwell too much at present on this
aspect of the question. These objects are many, but it will suffice to observe—and this is a
point on which there can be no serious divergence of opinion—that one of the chief aims was
undoubtedly to remove the obstacles raised during the course of history and as a result of the
world war, which prevent majorities and minorities from working together. Such co-operation
is one of the conditions of prosperity for individual countries and of lasting peace for the world
as a whole.

These, in brief, are the general ideas which have emerged from the discussion of the
Sixth Committee, and which should be set down as its most important results.

I have the honour to propose that the Assembly be asked to take note of this report.

ANNEX 6.

Mandates.

Draft Report of the Sixth Committee to the Assembly.

Rapporteur: M. Valvanne (Finland).

The Sixth Committee has examined the reports and minutes relating to the execution
of the provisions of Article 22 of the Covenant in the mandated territories during the period
that has elapsed since the tenth ordinary session of the Assembly.

It deeply regretted the death of Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, who for some years past had taken
a very active part in its debates on questions relating to mandates.

Several members offered on behalf of the Committee a deserved tribute to the work of
the Council and the Permanent Mandates Commission and to the ability and impartiality
with which they conduct their proceedings.

The delegates of several mandatory Powers laid stress upon the importance and the value
of the results that have already been achieved. Thanks to the mandate system, to the
principles on which it is based and to constant improvements due to the system of supervision
it involves, those Powers have been able in the territories entrusted to their charge to make
considerable progress in all branches of administration, especially in native policy and the
suppression of abuses in connection with the liquor traffic. The experience so gained may be
of great value for the administration of other territories in which conditions are similar. The
delegates of the Powers entrusted with mandates also had pleasure in recognising that the
success of their work was very largely to be attributed to the organs of the League, not the
least of whose merits has been that their relations with the mandatory Powers have taken the
form of frank and impartial co-operation.

I do not think that a more striking tribute could be paid at once to the wisdom of the
Council and to the ability of the Permanent Mandates Commission.

The Assembly will certainly desire to express its gratification at the excellent spirit
displayed by both the Powers in which the League has manifested its confidence by investing
them with mandates and by the bodies responsible for supervising the working of the system
on the League's behalf.

Apart from its study of the problem as a whole, the Sixth Committee, which could not
dream of going in detail into the position in the various mandated territories, noted only a
few particular points of special importance. It learned with great satisfaction of the
improvement of the position in Palestine. In this connection it viewed with gratification
the efforts made by the mandatory Power to restore an atmosphere of tranquillity and the
steps taken to prevent the recurrence of such tragic incidents as the Assembly had to deplore
last year. The Committee also noted the renewed undertaking given by the British
Government to give the Mandates Commission an opportunity of making observations on
whatever may be decided in regard to the scheme for a closer union between the mandated territory of Tanganyika and the neighbouring colonies of Kenya and Uganda before such decision becomes operative. It observed that this undertaking on the part of the mandatory Power should allay the apprehensions expressed at the last session of the Assembly and elsewhere with regard to the questions of principle raised by the British Government’s scheme.

“Draft Resolution.”

“The Assembly, having taken note of the work accomplished by the mandatory Powers, the Permanent Mandates Commission and the Council in regard to the execution of Article 22 of the Covenant:

(a) Renews the expression of confidence in them voted by the past sessions of the Assembly and congratulates them on what has been achieved through the spirit of co-operation which breathes throughout their reports;

(b) Expresses its gratification at the restoration of order and peace in Palestine and trusts that the measures taken by the mandatory Power may prevent the recurrence of such incidents as occurred in 1929;

(c) Again expresses the hope that through the prosecution of the joint efforts of the mandatory Powers, the Council and the Permanent Mandates Commission, the mandate system may continue to ensure the achievement of the ideal of civilisation held up in Article 22 of the Covenant.”

ANNEX 7.

A.VI/7(1).1930.

SLAVERY.

REPORT BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE SUBMITTED TO THE SIXTH COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 27TH, 1930.

On September 24th, the Sixth Committee, in consequence of the differences of opinion which had arisen among its members with regard to the British delegation’s proposal, appointed a Sub-Committee consisting of the delegates of Belgium, Spain, British Empire, Abyssinia, France, India, Italy, Liberia, Portugal, the Netherlands and Siam, to seek a formula for an agreement. The Sub-Committee thus constituted met three times on September 25th and 26th. It first of all examined the proposal contained in the memorandum submitted to the Committee by the British delegation. This proposal, which aimed at the institution of a permanent slavery commission and of a permanent office with headquarters at Geneva, was rejected by the majority of the members of the Sub-Committee. The latter then considered two new successive proposals put forward by its British member, the first with a view to the revival of the Temporary Commission on Slavery, the second for the appointment of an expert advisory committee, which would bring its conclusions before the Council. The first of these proposals was supported by the Spanish and Indian members, and the second by the delegates of Siam and India. The delegate of Italy brought forward a proposal for the appointment of a committee of three members of the Council, who would deal more specially with the questions of slavery. The member for Liberia proposed the appointment of a sub-committee of the Sixth Commission, which should meet each year to examine the results obtained by the enforcement of the Anti-Slavery Convention. The member for Abyssinia was opposed to any new mode of procedure and desired the enforcement pure and simple of the Anti-Slavery Convention. The Sub-Committee also examined a proposal put forward by its French member, arising, as did the Italian proposal, from the desire to meet the views of the British member, to the effect that the Council would be requested, in the event of the official information collected proving insufficient, to appoint three experts, who would be nationals of colonial Powers, to go through and examine on their own responsibility the documentation referred to them. The conclusions—which would be confidential—of the report of the experts could be consulted by the Members of the League of Nations, who would have the option of referring them on their responsibility to the Council and that body would itself discuss these conclusions at the expiration of a period of six months from the date of notification to the States concerned.

Lastly, the Portuguese member of the Sub-Committee, supported by his Italian and Belgian colleagues, suggested that the results of the present procedure should not be judged for another year, that the consideration of any changes in this procedure should be postponed, and that the States Members of the League and non-Member States should be invited to amplify the information they have already given by furnishing all such particulars as may assist the Assembly to form an idea not only of the conditions that prevail in their own territories but also on the present general position in regard to slavery.

The French and British members of the Sub-Committee for a long time endeavoured to bring their points of view into harmony, but, these efforts having failed, the Sub-Committee voted in turn on the last proposal of the British member and on the proposals submitted by the French and Portuguese members respectively.
The draft resolution submitted by the Portuguese member was finally adopted by seven votes to three and one abstention. It is therefore the last text which the Sub-Committee has decided to submit to the Sixth Committee.

*Text of the Draft Resolution to be submitted to the Assembly presented to the Sixth Committee by the Sub-Committee on Slavery.*

"The Assembly,

"Having taken note of the communications received from a large number of Governments in pursuance of the Resolution of the Tenth Assembly;

"Observing that the number of ratifications of the Convention of September 25th, 1926, has risen in one year from twenty-nine to thirty-four, but that the information furnished by the States Members of the League has not so far been such as to give an accurate idea of the present general situation in regard to slavery;

"Desiring, however, to wait until next year for the results of the procedure now in force:

"Postpones, provisionally, consideration of any possible changes in this procedure; and

"Invites the States Members of the League and States non-Members to amplify the information they have already given by furnishing all such particulars as may assist the Assembly to form an idea, not only of the conditions that prevail in their own territories, but of the present general position in regard to slavery."
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Abbreviations
Cttee = Committee.
Int. = International.
Perm. = Permanent.
Temp. = Temporary.

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