LEAGUE OF NATIONS

CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE SIXTH SESSION

(April 9th-16th, 1930)

The sixth session of the Child Welfare Committee was presided over by M. Ito, delegate of Japan, the Vice-President being H.E. M. Chodzko, delegate of Poland.

The following were present:

Government Delegates:

M. ITO (Chairman), Japan.
His Excellency M. CHODZKO (Vice-Chairman), Poland.
Dr. Gertrude BAUMER, Germany.
Dr. Elsa MATZ (Technical Expert), Belgium.
His Excellency Count CARTON DE WIART, M. MAUS (Technical Expert), Denmark.
Dr. Estrid HEIN, Great Britain.
Mr. S. W. HARRIS, Spain.
Miss WALL (Substitute Delegate), France.
His Excellency Marquis DE GUAD-EL-JEUL, M. Martinez AMADOR (Substitute Delegate), Italy.
His Excellency M. REGNAULT, M. BOURGOIS (Substitute Delegate), Japan.
Mlle. CHAPITAL (Substitute Delegate), M. MARTIN (Technical Expert), Poland.
Professor Ugo CONTI (Substitute Delegate), Mme. GRABINSKA (Substitute Delegate), Italy.
M. S. KUSAMA (Substitute Delegate), Mme. ROMNICOIANO (Substitute Delegate), Japan.
Mme. CHAPTAL (Substitute Delegate), Roumania.

Assessors:

Mlle. BURNIAUX, International Federation of Trade Unions (Amsterdam).
Mlle. DALMAZZO, International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues.
Dame Katherine FURSE, International Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Organisations.
Mlle. GOUARD, International Women’s Organisations.
Dr. F. R. HUMBERT, League of Red Cross Societies.
Mr. BASCOM JOHNSON.
Dr. W. POLLIGKEIT, “Save the Children International Union”.
M. Henri ROLLET, Association internationale pour la protection de l’enfance.

Liaison Officers:

Mr. JOHNSTON, International Labour Office.
M. O. VELGHE, Health Organisation of the League of Nations.

Secretary:

Dame Rachel CROWDY, Chief of the Social Questions and Opium Traffic Section.

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IV. SOCIAL

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The Chairman informed the Committee that Miss Grace Abbott, delegate of the United States, and Dr. Paulina Luisi, delegate of Uruguay, who were not present at the session, had sent no substitutes. H.E. Marquis Paulucci di Calboli, delegate of Italy, was replaced by Professor Ugo Conti and H.E. M. Chodzko replaced Senator Posner, who had resigned.

Of the assessors, Miss Rathbone, representing the International Women's Organisations, had resigned, her place being taken by Mlle. Gourd.


The International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation had stated that it did not regard any of the questions on the agenda as calling for the presence of a delegate.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.

The Committee adopted without comment the agenda as drawn up by the Agenda Sub-Committee at its meeting on April 8th.

The Committee noted that its studies relating to the enforcement of maintenance orders, assistance to foreign minors and the protection of illegitimate children could not usefully be continued unless it was authorised to extend its studies so as to include certain questions relating to parents, since children generally live with their family and it is impossible to deal with the child without taking into account the other members of the family on whom he is dependent. The Committee intends to examine this question when the opportune moment arrives.

II. REPORTS.

(a) Secretary's Report.

The Secretary read her report on the progress of the work, which was adopted unanimously.

The Chairman, on the Committee's behalf, congratulated H.E. Count Carton de Wiart on his appointment to the Governing Body of the International Educational Cinematographic Institute.

(b) The Report of the Liaison Officer with the International Labour Office.

The representative of the International Labour Office summarised his report. In compliance with the wish expressed last year by the Child Welfare Committee, a pamphlet containing the text of the labour Conventions and recommendations was distributed as an annex to the report, together with a table showing the position with regard to ratifications. Seven of the Conventions were directly concerned with child welfare.

The aspect of the International Labour Office's work which was of most concern to the Committee was the fixing of a minimum age for the employment of children. Three Conventions had already been concluded restricting their admission to employment in industry, in agriculture and at sea. The Governing Body had decided to place on the agenda of the International Labour Conference of 1931 a serious question, not covered by the existing Conventions—the minimum age for employment in non-industrial forms of work, such as commerce, street-trading, stage performances, film work, etc.

In its investigations into the question of forced labour, the International Labour Office had specially borne in mind the necessity of preventing the imposition of forced labour on children, whether directly or indirectly.

The French, Belgian and German delegates informed the Committee of the development of the family allowance system in their respective countries.

Various questions were then put to the Liaison Officer with the International Labour Office regarding the extent and nature of the forced labour imposed on minors, the conditions of work for children in mandated territories in the Near East, and as to whether the minimum age of employment coincided with the school leaving age. This latter question was of particular interest, because in certain cases ratification of the existing Conventions had been impossible owing to the fact that the two ages did not coincide.

(c) Report of the Liaison Officer with the Health Organisation of the League.

The Liaison Officer with the Health Organisation of the League commented upon the report he had drawn up to keep the Child Welfare Committee informed of those aspects of the Health Organisation's work which might be of special interest to it.

The work in question dealt with the immediate and more remote consequences of antituberculosis vaccination by BCG (Calmette-Guérin bacillus), maternity work and child welfare work from birth to school age, enquiries into the prevalence and character of smallpox which had been undertaken in various European countries, as also enquiries into post-vaccinal encephalitis and, lastly, research into methods of immunisation against diphtheria and scarlet fever.

He announced that the report on the causes of infant mortality would be published shortly.
The representative of the Health Organisation concluded his statement by observing that his duties were twofold and that, having informed the Child Welfare Committee of the Health Organisation's work, he was now ready to refer to the Health Committee the suggestions of the Child Welfare Committee.

During the discussion which followed, Dr. Humbert referred to the declaration made by a number of professors that inoculation BCG lowered not only mortality from tuberculosis but infant mortality in general. He hoped, therefore, at a later session to be able to give the Committee an account of the studies now being made of this question in different countries.

The Danish delegate said she quite understood that cases of post-vaccinal encephalitis, though very few in number, had given rise to anxiety, but she did not think that was any reason for discontinuing vaccination against smallpox.

M. Polligkeit wished to know whether the Committee of Expert Hygienists of Infant Welfare had made an inquiry into the mortality among illegitimate children.

Lastly, Dame Katherine Furse asked the Child Welfare Committee to request the Liaison Officer with the Health Organisation to propose to the Health Committee that it should undertake the study of problems of mental hygiene.

The Liaison Officer with the Health Organisation said that he would convey the wish expressed by Dame Katherine Furse to the Health Committee, and supplemented his previous statements by replying to the questions that had been raised during the discussion on his report.


The Chairman, observing that the report submitted by Mlle. Gourd contained information relating to various items on the agenda of the session, suggested that the views of these organisations should be put forward as and when the relevant questions came up for discussion. Mlle. Gourd accepted this suggestion.

III. DRAFT CONVENTIONS.

(a) Preliminary Draft Convention on the Return of Children and Young People to their Homes.

The British delegate, summing up the observations on the preliminary draft Convention, noted that several Governments were in favour of the conclusion of agreements of this kind, although others declared that the matter to which the preliminary draft referred was not of great importance to them. He accordingly proposed that the Committee should ask the Council to forward the preliminary draft Convention to all Governments with the suggestion that it might be used as a model for bilateral or multilateral agreements.

The Chairman pointed out that there were two ways in which the Committee could dispose of this question: one was to accept the British delegate's proposal, in which case the League would have no control over any agreements that might be concluded.

The second method, for which precedents existed, would be to ask the Council to convene a Conference for the conclusion of regional agreements; in that case, the question would not be relinquished by the League which would retain the right to summon the Conference.

After a discussion, in which the Belgian, Danish, French, Spanish, Roumanian and German delegates took part, the Committee decided that it would be better to obtain the views of a larger number of Governments before taking a decision, and the following resolution, submitted by the delegates of France and Belgium, was unanimously adopted:

"The Child Welfare Committee has taken note with interest of the replies already sent by twenty-two Governments concerning the preliminary draft Convention on the return of children and young people to their homes.

"Observing that in their replies, certain Governments express formal approval of the draft but that others see no necessity, as far as they are concerned, for international agreements of this kind;

"And, considering that several of the Governments consulted have not yet forwarded their replies;

"The Committee requests the Secretariat to take the necessary steps to obtain these answers and also to see that document C.P.E. 240, when brought up to date, is sent to Governments;

"The Committee decides to place this question on the agenda of its next session."

(b) Preliminary Draft Convention on Assistance for Foreign Minors.

M. Polligkeit said that on the whole, the Governments appeared to be in favour of the principles embodied in the draft Convention. The observations made might be classified in four groups:

1. Those made by overseas countries, more especially by immigration countries;
2. Observations of an economic nature made by countries with a depreciated currency;
3. Divergencies between laws on public relief;
4. Observations called forth by the attempt to separate, in the matter of public relief, the problem of minors from that of adults.
M. Polligkeit, in accordance with the opinion expressed by the experts when the preliminary draft Convention was drawn up, repeated that it was not possible to separate the question of relief to minors from relief to adults. He concluded his statement by asking that the Legal Sub-Committee should be requested to examine the observations of the Governments, and that the Committee should devise some means of extending the Legal Sub-Committee’s competence so that it might examine the problem of assistance in general.

The British delegate pointed out that the question dealt with in this draft Convention was a very important one, but in his view it was impossible to separate the treatment of minors from that of adults. As the Committee was not competent to consider the problem of assistance as a whole, he proposed that the Child Welfare Committee should request the Council to consult the various Governments as to the desirability of convening an international Conference on this question.

Mlle. Dalmazzo did not think that they should postpone the consideration of the problem of relief to minors on the ground that the whole question might be settled at some future time. They should insist on the principle of assistance to minors, irrespective of nationality, being introduced into the legislation of the various countries without delay.

The Polish delegate stated that his Government accepted in principle the draft Convention, but thought that further study should be given to the various suggestions concerning repayment of costs, delays, kinds of children affected by the Convention, and simultaneous solution of the problem of assistance to adults and to minors.

The delegate of Denmark made a similar statement on behalf of her Government.

The German delegate approved the suggestion to refer the examination of the Governments’ replies to the Legal Sub-Committee; she did not think that the Legal Sub-Committee was competent to deal with questions of assistance in general, but it could quite well consider all matters relating to the protection of foreign children. She added that in Germany the draft had not been regarded as a final solution, since the problem of assistance in general would obviously have to be considered later.

The delegates of France, Belgium and Poland, as well as M. Rollet, approved the proposal to refer the replies to the Legal Sub-Committee, which might re-examine the question in the light of the observations received. The amended draft could then be submitted to the Child Welfare Committee at its next session.

The Italian delegate and the delegate of Roumania stated that in their countries all children, generally speaking, benefited by public assistance irrespective of their nationality.

The British delegate also emphasised the principle of equality of treatment between foreigners and nationals.

After a long discussion, in the course of which the delegate of France pointed out that the introductory note to the preliminary draft Convention met most of the objections put forward by Governments, a draft resolution was submitted by the delegate of Belgium and adopted in the following form:

“The Child Welfare Committee has noted with the deepest interest the replies sent by twenty-three Governments concerning the preliminary draft Convention on Assistance for Foreign Minors.

Several of these replies contain observations which would justify further examination of the problem, more particularly as regards the connection between assistance for minors and general assistance for indigent foreigners, and the refund of the cost of assistance by the country of which the assisted person is a national.

The Committee therefore refers to the Legal Sub-Committee the study of the aforesaid Governments’ replies, requesting the Sub-Committee, in the light of these replies, to submit for its next session proposals or suggestions with a view to ensuring as favourable and comprehensive a solution as possible of the problem of the assimilation of foreign minors to national minors from the standpoint of assistance and protection.”

IV. RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT OF MAINTENANCE ORDERS ABROAD.

The Chairman invited Mlle. Ferrière, the delegate of the Permanent Conference for the Protection of Migrants, to take part in the discussion.

At the opening of the discussion, the British delegate asked the Committee to take note of the report submitted by the Permanent Conference for the Protection of Migrants, or asked that the delegate of that Commission might at any rate give a short summary of it.

Mlle. Ferrière explained that the sole purpose of this report was to explain to the Committee the difficulties encountered in daily practice by private organisations through non-payment of maintenance. The chief difficulties were usually the following:

1. The establishment of the residence of the person responsible for payment;
2. The lack of uniformity in legislations;
3. Difference of competence as between courts;
4. Inadequacy of existing treaties;
5. Lack of liberality in the practice of legal aid.

Mlle. Ferrière added that these obstacles were very frequently overcome by the persuasive methods of the authorities. She further explained that the document before the Committee was
only an extract from a much more detailed report which was intended for the members of the Legal Sub-Committee.

In view of the importance of the opinion of an organisation engaged in purely practical work, the British delegate asked that the report intended for the Legal Sub-Committee should be communicated in extenso to all the members of the Child Welfare Committee.

The Belgian delegate congratulated Mlle. Ferrière upon her excellent report, adding that in many countries legal aid was liberal; it was organised not by the State but by the Bar. When an indigent foreigner wished to bring an action for maintenance, counsel was provided by the President of the Corporation of Barristers.

The Belgian delegate added that he thought the Committee ought to pronounce upon the previous question which the Legal Sub-Committee had formulated during its session in November 1929. He considered that they could not usefully pursue their enquiries unless the Council authorised the extension of the Committee’s powers.

M. Polligkeit was of opinion that in this question, as in that of assistance to foreign minors, the Committee was reaching the limits of its mandate. He noted that the further progress of the work required that the Committee’s powers should be extended and that an urgent request should be submitted to the Council to this effect. Further, the Committee should authorise its Chairman to appoint to the Legal Sub-Committee experts on these questions.

The German delegate pointed out that they were concerned to ensure the enforcement of maintenance orders abroad, not only in cases of emigration, but also in cases of temporary residence abroad. She shared the opinion of the Belgian delegate and M. Polligkeit. The question must be considered in a much wider aspect than that of its application to minors. The Hague Convention on the enforcement of maintenance orders would, in many cases, not satisfy the purpose of the Child Welfare Committee, as it provided for the execution of orders abroad only if these were not contrary to public order in the country in which they would have to be executed.

The substitute delegate for Poland stated that her Government was in favour of the principles proposed by the Legal Sub-Committee for the recognition and execution abroad of maintenance orders. She asked that account should be taken in preparing the draft of any suggestions received from Governments and in particular from the Polish Government.

The British delegate pointed out that any International Agreement for the enforcement of maintenance orders must be mainly concerned with orders made in respect of parents, and for this reason and also because difficult questions of international law were involved, he considered that the question was largely beyond the competence of the Child Welfare Committee. Several members, however, expressed the view that the Council should be asked to take steps for the consideration of the question, either by extending the powers of the Child Welfare Committee or in some other way.

The following resolution was adopted:

"The Child Welfare Committee has had before it the report of its Legal Sub-Committee on the subject of the recognition and enforcement abroad of maintenance orders, and also a valuable report presented to it by the Permanent Conference for the Protection of Migrants, which sets forth the practical difficulties experienced in connection with this problem.

"The Child Welfare Committee recognises, as pointed out by its Legal Sub-Committee, that any adequate consideration of the problem must have regard not only to judicial decisions given in favour of minors, but also to judicial decisions given in favour of either parent, especially where the parent has been granted the custody of the minor.

"The Child Welfare Committee, with full appreciation of the legal and administrative difficulties, is of opinion that an effort should be made to frame international agreements, either generally or among groups of countries with the same legal principles, so as to ensure the mutual recognition and enforcement of maintenance orders.

"Unless the Council has some other procedure in view, the Child Welfare Committee proposes to examine, with such expert advice as it can obtain, the whole problem in greater detail, and to make recommendations to the Council."

V. ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

The Committee first examined the information forwarded by Governments in accordance with its resolution of last year. It noted that a number of Governments had communicated fresh information concerning the legislation in their respective countries and that this ought to be included in document C.P.E.141 (1).

Among the countries which have introduced important changes in the legal status of the illegitimate child, reference should be made to the case of Roumania, as indicated by the Roumanian delegate. The draft law introduced by H.E. M. Junian, Minister of Justice, approved by the Legislative Council on June 30th, 1929, provides for the establishment of paternity and for maintenance orders up to 18 years of age. The Italian delegate thought it important to lay stress on the need for the co-ordination of relief measures in order to avoid the danger pointed out by Mlle. Dalmazzo. In Italy, until quite recently, there was a doubt whether the mother of an illegitimate child retained her right to certain financial assistance if she legitimised her child,
but these doubts had been dispelled. In France, as the deputy delegate pointed out, the married mother receives an allowance for her second child. The unmarried mother obtains for each child the special allowance for "enfants secourus".

The delegates also discussed the conclusions and suggestions put forward by the Legal Sub-Committee. The statistics collected by the Secretariat at the Legal Sub-Committee’s request were considered by the majority of the delegates to be of little real value for the purpose of drawing conclusions therefrom.

When examining the juridical reforms recommended by the Sub-Committee, the Belgian delegate emphasised the necessity of facilitating marriage and legitimation. In his opinion, one of the soundest remedies for the grave social defects with which the Committee was dealing was to ensure for as many children as possible the benefits of a regular family and filiation. Accordingly, with reference to the Legal Sub-Committee’s suggestion, he urged that the Child Welfare Committee should consider primarily the examination of means of facilitating marriage and legitimation, and more particularly the study and preparation of international agreements to simplify formalities and reduce the costs; these difficulties often prevented indigent parents from contracting a legal union and ensuring the normal status of their children. In order not to overburden the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee, the Belgian delegate did not insist on the latter dealing with the question at once, but reserved the right to repeat his proposal at the next session.

The deputy British delegate asked that, when legal measures were studied, adoption might be considered separately and not in its limited relationship to legitimacy.

The Polish delegate was also of opinion that the preparation of international agreements to facilitate marriage and legitimation was desirable. He wished, further, to have more detailed information on the organisation of professional or official guardianship as instituted more particularly in Germany and Austria. He also laid special stress on the question of mortality among illegitimate children, and the effects of the legal status of such children on the number of deaths.

The Danish and British delegates thought that, as the legal questions referred to above were both complex and difficult, they might be dealt with later, whereas the measures of relief, such as financial assistance, social insurance, bonuses for children, etc., enumerated by the Legal Sub-Committee, were much more urgent and should be studied in the different countries with the aid of members of the Committee and the voluntary organisations and with the International Labour Office. This view was supported by several assessors, particularly by Mlle. Burniaux. Mlle. Gourd pointed out that measures of social relief and legal questions were so closely bound up with one another that both these categories of problems should be studied simultaneously. The Polish deputy delegate thought that it was particularly desirable to study the effects of illegitimacy on delinquency in children. The delegate of the Health Organisation promised that that Organisation would co-operate in the study of problems relating to the comparative mortality of illegitimate and legitimate children. He pointed out that mortality should include deadbirths and morbidity.

Following on this exchange of views, the Child Welfare Committee unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"The Child Welfare Committee has given careful consideration to the report of its Legal Sub-Committee on the subject of the illegitimate child.

"The legal status of the illegitimate child has already been dealt with in the replies which the Governments were good enough to give to the questionnaire issued in 1927 and which were summarised in the report prepared by the Secretariat, but the Committee proposes to return to some aspects of legal status at the next session with a view to these being referred to the Legal Sub-Committee.

"The Child Welfare Committee therefore thinks that it would be valuable to study in various countries those social measures which are more directly concerned with the welfare of the illegitimate child, and it requests the Secretariat, with the aid of members of the Committee and the voluntary organisations, to prepare, in co-operation with the International Labour Office, a report on these questions.

"The Child Welfare Committee also thinks that it would be useful to examine in the same countries, with the help of the Health Organisation, the comparative mortality of illegitimate and legitimate children."

VI. AUXILIARY SERVICES OF JUVENILE COURTS.

The Chairman invited M. Simon van der Aa, Secretary-General of the Commission internationale pénale et pénitentiaire, to take part in the discussion.

The Agenda Sub-Committee, having decided that the report containing the replies of Governments to the questionnaire on auxiliary services of juvenile courts should be considered from a purely formal standpoint, the substance of the question was not gone into.

After an exchange of views, the Committee came to the conclusion that it was necessary to supplement the existing information on both juvenile courts and auxiliary services. It decided to send the questionnaire on juvenile courts, framed by the Commission internationale
The information collected should be submitted to the Committee at its 1931 session. Dr. Humbert thought it expedient to classify auxiliary services according to whether they concerned social, medico-social or legal work.

The Committee adopted the following resolution submitted by the Italian delegate:

"The Child Welfare Committee, after having examined the interesting report submitted by the Secretariat concerning the enquiry on auxiliary services of juvenile courts and also the reports received from States subsequent to this enquiry, decides:

1. To forward the questionnaire on juvenile courts relating to the enquiry of the Commission internationale pénale et pénitentiaire to all the States, including States not Members of the League of Nations, in addition to the questionnaire which they have already had on auxiliary services;

2. To keep on its agenda the present enquiry on auxiliary services, as the Secretariat is to submit a report on the question at the next session;

3. To approve a third and last enquiry on the institutions which enforce the decisions of the juvenile courts, pursuant to the Committee's resolution, as approved by the Council on June 12th, 1929."

The Committee appointed Mme. Grabinska and M. Rollet as Rapporteurs and requested them to submit a report on the whole question for the next session.

VII. CINEMATOGRAPH.

The Committee was obliged to divide its examination of questions relating to the cinematograph, as the visits to Geneva of the Marquis de Guad-el-Jelu, a member of the Governing Body of the International Educational Cinematographic Institute, and of M. de Feo, the Director of that Institute, did not coincide.

M. de Feo, on April 10th, made a statement to the Committee to the following effect: In accordance with the recommendation passed by the Child Welfare Committee at its fifth session and adopted by the Governing Body of the Institute at its second session (October 1929), the Director of that Institute undertook a preliminary study, the chief points of which he mentioned, concerning the present position of the cinema for children which combines recreation with instruction or education.

It is very difficult to produce films that are both educative and amusing, and the type of these has still to be determined. Not only must they offer the children recreation together with instruction, but they must benefit the producer.

A questionnaire had been framed with a view to ascertaining the tastes of children, and an enquiry was being carried out on this basis in eleven countries with the assistance of the education authorities.

M. de Feo next explained the main outlines of the Rome Institute's work from a social standpoint. A world enquiry on the psychological effects of the cinema on children was at present being carried out by means of a questionnaire. The information collected by this means would be handed to a sub-committee of psychologists.

Another enquiry, the results of which would be published next year, was being carried out on the effect of the cinema on the eyesight.

The Director of the Rome Institute brought to the Committee's notice the importance of restricting the period of validity of the visa showing that films had been passed by the censor or other controlling bodies.

He informed the Committee that a preliminary draft Convention for the abolition of tariff barriers against educational films had been prepared by a sub-committee of experts; he hoped to be able to submit it to the Council in the near future.

M. de Feo was asked to answer a number of questions by members and assessors, more particularly concerning the means employed to give legal force to censorship decisions, the period of validity of temporary visas, the danger of introducing uncensored variety turns in cinema performances, the exhibiting of uncensored posters outside cinema halls, etc.

Further, the Belgian delegate asked M. de Feo whether the Rome Institute was taking any steps, from a technical point of view, to overcome the defects of the non-inflammable film, which is not so clear and wears out more quickly than others.

After hearing M. de Feo's replies, the Chairman thanked him for his interesting report and for the assistance which he was always so ready to give the Committee.

The Marquis de Guad-el-Jelu, who was present at the afternoon meeting on April 11th, explained that he had not thought it necessary to draw up for the Child Welfare Committee a report on the second session of the Governing Body of the International Educational Cinematographic Institute, as the Institute itself had framed a report which had been submitted to the Council of the League in January last.

The Marquis de Guad-el-Jelu pointed out that the Educational Cinematographic Institute had considered all the points which had been dealt with more particularly by the Child Welfare Committee, especially the resolution passed by the Committee at its fifth session concerning films which combined recreation and education.
During the discussion which followed the statements of the Marquis de Guad-el-Jelu, the French delegate read a circular of February 24th last addressed to the prefects by the Ministry of the Interior concerning the use of non-inflammable or non-combustible films, and the British delegate gave a statement of the reasons why it had not yet been possible to bring the less inflammable types of films into commercial use. The Committee expressed an earnest hope that the difficulties would be overcome in the near future. Dr. Humbert stressed the importance of the draft Convention for the abolition of tariff barriers against educational films and submitted a draft resolution, which was adopted in the following form:

"The Child Welfare Committee has read with the greatest interest the reports of the Marquis Guad-el-Jelu, the member of the Governing Body of the International Educational Cinematographic Institute, and of M. de Feo, Director of the Institute, and notes with the utmost satisfaction that its recommendations regarding educational and recreational films for the young are being put into effect.

"The Committee, believing that a draft ‘international Convention for the abolition of tariff barriers against educational films’ prepared by the International Educational Cinematographic Institute may help to promote the circulation of films of value to the young, trusts that this draft Convention will shortly become effective."

Another draft resolution was submitted by Mlle. Dalmazzo, in agreement with the delegate of Italy, directing the attention of Governments to the danger, from the standpoint of children, of introducing variety turns as interludes in cinema performances. The draft resolution was adopted by the Committee and reads as follows:

"The Child Welfare Committee directs the attention of Governments to the necessity of issuing regulations to ensure that the effects of the film censorship shall not be imperilled by the performance of uncensored variety turns as interludes when children and young persons are admitted to the cinema."

Dame Katherine Furse asked the Marquis de Guad-el-Jelu whether it would not be possible for two or three women, well-known as taking an interest in children, to be appointed on the Governing Body of the Rome Institute. On behalf of her organisation, the International Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Organisation, she urged that in all cinema questions fuller use should be made of the experience of mothers and of young men and women engaged in child welfare organisations. Lastly, M. Polligkeit requested that Mr. Bascom Johnson, the American assessor, be invited by the Committee to submit to the latter a report on the American production of films for children which are at the same time educational and recreational or instructive.

VIII. COMMUNICATION RELATING TO THE PRELIMINARY ENQUIRY CONCERNING CHILDREN IN MORAL DANGER.

Mlle. Chaptal, the League of Nations’ Commissioner, supplemented by a verbal statement the provisional reports which she had drawn up after her visit to the United States and Canada.

After an exchange of views, the Committee decided that the question should not come up for full discussion until after the conclusion of the enquiry in the countries in question.

IX. THE BLIND CHILD.

The Danish delegate, the Rapporteur on the question of blind children, directed the Child Welfare Committee’s attention to the important social material contained in the Health Section’s report on the protection of the blind in different countries.

After explaining which points in this report relate directly to the protection or education of blind children, the Rapporteur read out the questions which in her opinion should be discussed.

The liaison officer with the Health Organisation, after explaining the differences that exist between the definitions of blindness in the case of adults and of children, suggested that the Child Welfare Committee should keep in touch with the case figures for blindness in the different countries, causes of blindness, and the prophylactic methods at present employed. After some years, the Committee would thus have in its possession information which would enable it to frame conclusions, and these could be distributed in every country, and would encourage countries which have not devoted sufficient attention to the question of the protection and education of the blind to adopt regulations and measures found to be productive of useful results in other countries.

Dr. Humbert had submitted a report on the “Prophylaxis of Blindness” which had been prepared by his Organisation, and he expressed the hope that the Committee would include among the questions to be discussed educational equality as between blind and normal children, and the expediency of special sight-saving classes for children suffering from defective vision and, further, the system of pensions for the blind in certain countries; it would be well to consider whether such
Pensions should not be granted to children or their parents in order to give blind persons a proper education.

The Belgian delegate proposed that the Committee should recommend the international exchange of classical works in Braille type for the instruction of young persons undertaking higher studies.

After a general discussion of these various suggestions, the Committee decided to set up a Sub-Committee, consisting of Dr. Estrid Hein, M. Velghe, Dr. Humbert and M. Martin, to examine the different questions, the study of which was proposed as a conclusion to her report by Dr. Hein, and also the questions suggested in the course of the discussions. The Sub-Committee can co-opt the liaison officer with the International Labour Office or other experts whose opinion may appear desirable. The Sub-Committee will submit a report to the Committee next year.

X. Petition addressed by the English Women's Co-operative Guild to the International Labour Office and the Health Committee of the League of Nations.

The British delegate communicated to the Child Welfare Committee a petition addressed to the International Labour Office and to the Health Organisation of the League by the English Women's Co-operative Guild. The Secretariat was asked to ascertain what action had been taken on this petition by the International Labour Office and by the Health Organisation of the League.

XI. Co-operation with the International Criminal Police Commission.

The Traffic in Women and Children Committee and the Child Welfare Committee, meeting in joint session, examined the correspondence between the Secretariat and the International Criminal Police Commission on the possibility of co-operation.

After an exchange of views as to the expediency of such co-operation and the methods to be employed, the Committee, on the proposal of the Belgian delegate, unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"The Traffic in Women and Children Committee and Child Welfare Committee, meeting in joint session, took note of the letter from the Chief of the Traffic in Opium and Social Questions Section to the President of the International Criminal Police Commission and of the reply thereto, expressing high appreciation of the offer of co-operation made by the International Criminal Police Commission and tendering their thanks.

"They consider that this co-operation could best be given by this International Commission furnishing opinions on the problems before the Traffic in Women and Children or Child Welfare Committees on the request of these Committees. They are of opinion that it will be for the Chairman of the Traffic in Women and Children Committee and Child Welfare Committee, in agreement with the Secretariat, to judge the cases in which this co-operation might be asked for and the form which it should take."

XII. Codification of Conventions.

The Traffic in Women and Children Committee and the Child Welfare Committee, meeting in joint session, noted the resolution adopted on September 24th, 1929, by the Tenth Assembly of the League of Nations, which resolution was communicated to the two Committees by a Council resolution of January 13th, 1930, concerning the codification of Conventions. The two Committees noted further that, in the Council's opinion, the Assembly's suggestion is not of equal interest to all the organisations; it concerns those which deal with subjects in regard to which a considerable number of Conventions are in force.

XIII. Revision of Rules of Procedure.

The Secretariat having, as requested, prepared revised draft Rules of Procedure, the Traffic in Women and Children Committee and the Child Welfare Committee, meeting in joint session, examined the draft and adopted it unanimously (see Appendix to doc. C.223.M.110. 1930. IV).

XIV. Budget.

The draft budget was approved without observation.
The seventh session of the Child Welfare Committee will open at Geneva on April 14th, 1931.

XVI. REGRETS OF THE COMMITTEE AT THE DEPARTURE OF DAME RACHEL CROWDY.

The following resolution was submitted by M. Martinez Amador and was supported by the delegate of Great Britain on behalf of the Government members, by Dr. Humbert on behalf of the assessors, and by Mlle. Gourd on behalf of the women's organisations:

"The Child Welfare Committee learns with deep regret of the departure of Dame Rachel Crowdy, Chief of the Social Questions and Opium Traffic Section and Secretary to the Committee.

"Never since the Committee's formation has Dame Rachel Crowdy for a moment flagged in devoting all her zeal, intelligence and loyalty to the welfare work which all the members of the Committee have so near at heart.

"The Child Welfare Committee desires to offer Dame Rachel Crowdy its best wishes for the future, and trusts that it will always be able to count upon her experience as it has always in the past been sure of her valuable assistance, both in the work of the Committee as a whole and in the individual work of each member."

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Committee, in adopting this resolution, stated unanimously their desire that Dame Rachel Crowdy should continue to co-operate in the work of the Committee.

RESOLUTIONS.

I.

The Child Welfare Committee has taken note with interest of the replies already sent by twenty-four Governments concerning the preliminary draft Convention on the return of children and young people to their homes.

Observing that in their replies certain Governments express formal approval of the draft but that others see no necessity, as far as they are concerned, for international agreements of this kind; And, considering that several of the Governments consulted have not yet forwarded their replies; The Committee requests the Secretariat to take the necessary steps to obtain these answers and also to see that document C.P.E.240, when brought up to date, is sent to Governments. The Committee decides to place this question on the agenda of its next session.

II.

The Child Welfare Committee has noted with the deepest interest the replies sent by twenty-four Governments concerning the preliminary draft Convention on Assistance for Foreign Minors. Several of these replies contain observations which would justify further examination of the problem, more particularly as regards the connection between assistance for minors and general assistance for indigent foreigners and the refund of the cost of assistance by the country of which the assisted person is a national.

The Committee therefore refers to the Legal Sub-Committee the study of the aforesaid Governments' replies, requesting the Sub-Committee, in the light of these replies, to submit for its next session proposals or suggestions with a view to ensuring as favourable and comprehensive a solution as possible of the problem of the assimilation of foreign minors to national minors from the standpoint of assistance and protection.

III.

The Child Welfare Committee has had before it the report of its Legal Sub-Committee on the subject of the recognition and enforcement abroad of maintenance orders, and also a valuable report presented to it by the Permanent Conference for the Protection of Migrants, which sets forth the practical difficulties experienced in connection with this problem.

The Child Welfare Committee recognises, as pointed out by its Legal Sub-Committee, that any adequate consideration of the problem must have regard not only to judicial decisions given in favour of minors but also to judicial decisions given in favour of either parent, especially where the parent has been granted the custody of the minor.

The Child Welfare Committee, with full appreciation of the legal and administrative difficulties, is of opinion that an effort should be made to frame international agreements, either generally or among groups of countries with the same legal principles, so as to ensure the mutual recognition and enforcement of maintenance orders.
Unless the Council has some other procedure in view, the Child Welfare Committee proposes to examine, with such expert advice as it can obtain, the whole problem in greater detail, and to make recommendations to the Council.

IV.

The Child Welfare Committee has given careful consideration to the report of its Legal Sub-Committee on the subject of the illegitimate child. The legal status of the illegitimate child has already been dealt with in the replies which the Governments were good enough to give to the questionnaire issued in 1927 and which were summarised in the report prepared by the Secretariat, but the Committee proposes to return to some aspects of legal status at the next session with a view to these being referred to the Legal Sub-Committee.

The Child Welfare Committee therefore thinks that it would be valuable to study in various countries those social measures which are more directly concerned with the welfare of the illegitimate child, and it requests the Secretariat, with the aid of members of the Committee and the voluntary organisations, to prepare in co-operation with the International Labour Office a report on these questions.

The Child Welfare Committee also thinks that it would be useful to examine in the same countries, with the help of the Health Organisation, the comparative mortality of illegitimate and legitimate children.

V.

The Child Welfare Committee, after having examined the interesting report submitted by the Secretariat concerning the enquiry on auxiliary services of juvenile courts and also the reports received from States subsequent to this enquiry, decides:

1. To forward the questionnaire on juvenile courts relating to the enquiry on the International Prison Commission to all the States, including States not Members of the League of Nations, in addition to the questionnaire which they have already had on auxiliary services,

2. To keep on its agenda the present enquiry on auxiliary services, as the Secretariat is to submit a report on the question at the next session,

3. To approve a third and last enquiry on the institutions which enforce the decisions of the juvenile courts, pursuant to the Committee's resolution as approved by the Council on June 12th, 1929.

VI.

The Child Welfare Committee has read with the greatest interest the reports of the Marquis Guad-el-Jelu, the member of the Governing Body of the International Educational Cinematographic Institute, and of M. de Feo, Director of the Institute, and notes with the utmost satisfaction that its recommendations regarding educational and recreational films for the young are being put into effect.

The Committee, believing that a draft "International Convention for the abolition of tariff barriers against educational films" prepared by the International Educational Cinematographic Institute may help to promote the circulation of films of value to the young, trusts that this draft Convention will shortly become effective.

VII.

The Child Welfare Committee directs the attention of Governments to the necessity of issuing regulations to ensure that the effects of the film censorship shall not be imperilled by the performance of uncensored variety turns as interludes when children and young persons are admitted to the cinema.

VIII.

The Traffic in Women and Children Committee and Child Welfare Committee, meeting in joint session, took note of the Chief of the Traffic in Opium and Social Questions Section to the President of the International Criminal Police Commission and of the reply thereto, expressing high appreciation of the offer of co-operation made by the International Criminal Police Commission and tendering their thanks.

They consider that this co-operation could best be given by this International Commission furnishing opinions on the problems before the Traffic in Women and Children or Child Welfare Committees on the request of these Committees. They are of opinion that it will be for the Chairman of the Traffic in Women and Children Committee and Child Welfare Committee, in agreement with the Secretariat, to judge the cases in which this co-operation might be asked for and the form which it should take.
The Child Welfare Committee learns with deep regret of the departure of Dame Rachel Crowdy, Chief of the Social Questions and Opium Traffic Section and Secretary to the Committee.

Never since the Committee’s formation has Dame Rachel Crowdy for a moment flagged in devoting all her zeal, intelligence and loyalty to the welfare work which all the members of the Committee have so near at heart.

The Child Welfare Committee desires to offer Dame Rachel Crowdy its best wishes for the future, and trusts that it will always be able to count upon her experience as it has always in the past been sure of her valuable assistance, both in the work of the Committee as a whole and in the individual work of each member.

(Signed) N. Ito,
President.

(Signed) Rachel E. Crowdy,
Secretary.

(Signed) CHODZKO,
Vice-President.