

Report of the Substitute New Zealand Delegates

The High Commissioner

IN your unavoidable absence we acted as the representatives of New Zealand at the meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations held at Geneva from 8 to 18 April 1946, inclusive.

2. The meeting was a resumption of the 20th Session of the Assembly which had been adjourned in December 1939. In his opening speech the President, Mr C. J. Hambro of Norway, proposed that the session should be formally closed and that a new session, the 21st, should be convoked. This proposal was adopted, Mr Hambro being elected President of the new session, on the motion of the representative of Bolivia, the President of the Council.

3. The Assembly agreed that it was unnecessary for the Council to meet, and adopted a resolution attributing to itself such functions of the Council as were necessary.

4. The major purposes of the meeting may be summarized as follows :—

(i) To receive the report of the Acting Secretary-General on the work of the League during the war.

(ii) To provide for the transfer to the United Nations of the League's assets, together with such of its functions as the United Nations had agreed to assume.

(iii) To dissolve the League.

5. There was general recognition of the fact that the League as a political force had ceased to exist, and there was no disposition to regard the present meeting as anything other than a business session, the purpose of which was to facilitate the assumption by the United Nations of the work which the League was laying down. It was inevitable in such a gathering that some questions of international political significance should be raised, but these were few and were disposed of in an atmosphere of sweet reasonableness not common to all such international assemblies.

6. The session was sparsely attended by representatives of States Members and little interest was shown by the public or press. Many Governments had selected as their representatives men who had been associated with the League from its