Constitution of an International Refugee Office.

Note by the Secretary-General.

With reference to the Council resolution of October 3rd, 1930, the Secretary-General has the honour to circulate to the Council the attached letter from M. Max Huber, together with its annex (draft Statutes).

Zurich, December 22nd, 1930.

To the Secretary-General.

I have the honour to enclose, for submission to the Council of the League of Nations, draft Statutes for the International Refugee Office, which I have prepared in accordance with the Assembly resolution of September 30th, 1930.

I have carefully followed the guiding principles formulated by the Inter-Governmental Commission and adopted by the Assembly. I have also taken into consideration the suggestions and indications contained in the reports submitted to the Sixth Committee and to the Assembly. Some of them are rather in the nature of general principles which the Office should observe, without its hands being tied however, - by the fact of these instructions finding a place in the Statutes - in cases where the requisite latitude is best left to it in connection with its work for the refugees and its own organisation.

The International Refugee Office is established under a decision of the League of Nations as a separate
institution. It is placed under the direction of the League in virtue of Article 24 of the Covenant. It is called upon to discharge functions hitherto performed by the League.

The Office is provided with organs which ensure its independent operation in the accomplishment of all the objects for which it is set up. Provision is accordingly made for the Office and certain classes of its officials to enjoy diplomatic privileges and immunities.

In accordance with a suggestion made to the Assembly by Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, the Office is to be called the Nansen International Refugee Office, in memory of the great High Commissioner, Fridtjof Nansen.

The objects of the Office have been laid down by the Assembly.

In regard to the constitution of this new organisation, my main object has been to make the Statutes as elastic as possible. According to the Assembly's decision, it is intended that the Office shall disappear within not more than nine years as its several objects are successively accomplished. It must therefore be enabled to adapt itself readily to this development. The organisation of the actual administrative services is left, under the guiding principles laid down by the Assembly, to the Governing Body. It was not therefore possible in drafting the Statutes to restrict the freedom of decision thus reserved to the supreme authority of the Office, such freedom being required if the administration is to be adjusted to conditions that are liable to change.

I may be allowed to add one observation of a personal nature. When I was called upon to decide whether to accept
the office which the Assembly did me the honour to offer me - having no opportunity of adequately realising the magnitude of the work which I was about to take up - I understood the intention of the Assembly to be that the President of the Governing Body would not be required to reside in Geneva, and that his duties as President would be confined to presiding over the Governing Body and the Managing Committee without undertaking current administrative work.

I need hardly add that I am ready to furnish the Rapporteur of the Council and the Council itself with any explanations required in regard to the draft Statutes.

In conclusion, I have the agreeable task of thanking the Deputy-Secretary-General and the members of the Secretariat for the valuable assistance they have given me in the preparation of the draft.

(Signed) M. HUBER
(DRAFT) STATUTES
OF THE
NANSEN INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE OFFICE

Article 1.

In execution of the Assembly resolution of September 30th, 1930, the Nansen International Refugee Office is hereby established, and shall be governed by the provisions set forth below.

Article 2.

The Nansen International Refugee Office shall be placed under the direction of the League of Nations, in pursuance of Article 24 of the Covenant of the League.

Article 3.

The Nansen International Refugee Office is established with the objects assigned to it in the Resolution of the League of Nations Assembly of September 30th, 1930: in particular its functions include

a) collecting and collating information regarding the material and moral welfare of the refugees; facilitating the task of finding them work and settling them, and for that purpose collecting useful information as to the conditions of labour in the countries to which they immigrate;

b) giving general directions to relief institutions which already exist, or which may be established subsequently with the authorisation of the various national authorities, and co-ordinating their work;

c) collecting and distributing with the help of other bodies, particularly the Advisory Committee of the private organisations, the resources placed at
its disposal with a view to the improvement of
the lot of the refugees, including the resources
derived from the sale of Nansen stamps;
d) facilitating, within the limits of its competence,
the application in particular cases of the
arrangements that have been made for the benefit
of refugees.

For the attainment of these objects the Office may
organise local centres dependent on itself, after consulting
the national authorities.

**Article 4.**

The headquarters of the Nansen International Refugee
Office shall be at Geneva.

**Article 5.**

The organs of the Nansen International Refugee
Office shall be:

The Governing Body;
The Managing Committee.

**Article 6.**

The Governing Body shall be composed of:

a President, appointed by the Assembly of the
League of Nations;
the Chairman and three representatives of the
Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission for
Refugees, appointed by that body;
a member appointed by the Secretary-General of the
League of Nations;
a member appointed by the Director of the International
Labour Office;
three members of the Advisory Committee of the private
organisations for refugees appointed by that
Committee.
At the request of the President of the Governing Body, an additional member shall be appointed by the Governing Body on his nomination by a two-thirds majority.

In the event of their being unable to be present, the members of the Governing Body may cause themselves to be represented by deputies, such deputies not being themselves members of the Governing Body.

**Article 7.**

The Governing Body shall be the supreme authority of the Nansen International Refugee Office, and as a general rule the competent authority. It may delegate its powers to the Managing Committee, or to the President, or, at the latter's request, to another member of the Governing Body.

The Governing Body, or, in the event of delegation of its powers, the Managing Committee or President, shall appoint the persons entitled to sign letters or commit the Office.

**Article 8.**

The Managing Committee shall be composed of the President of the Governing Body, and two members of the Governing Body appointed by the latter. It may delegate its powers to the President, or at the latter's request, to another member of the Governing Body.

**Article 9.**

The Managing Committee shall be responsible for carrying into effect the decisions of the Governing Body; the general direction of the Nansen International Refugee Office shall rest with it, save in so far as such direction is delegated to the President.
Article 10.

In the event of his being unable to perform his duties, the President may delegate all or some of his powers, whether inherent in his office or delegated, to a member of the Managing Committee.

Article 11.

The persons of whom the organs of the Nansen International Refugee Office are composed shall not, in their capacity as members of those organs, be the legal representatives of other organisations or groups to which they may belong.

Article 12.

The Office shall have an administrative Secretariat, the powers and duties of which shall be settled by the Governing Body.

The head of the administrative Secretariat shall be appointed by the Governing Body.

Article 13.

The Office shall take over all the assets and all the liabilities of the League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Article 14.

The resources of the Nansen International Refugee Office shall be derived from:

1) such annual grants as may be made to it by the League of Nations;

2) the proceeds of the sale of Nansen stamps (but such proceeds shall not be used to meet administrative expenditure);

3) the proceeds of fees and sums derived from refugees;
4) donations, legacies and grants from Governments, public or private institutions, associations or individuals, accepted by the Office in virtue of decisions of the Governing Body.

The Governing Body shall draw up the budget of the Nansen International Refugee Office.

The accounts of the Office shall be audited once a year by the League of Nations Auditor.

**Article 15.**

The Nansen International Refugee Office shall have full powers in respect of all matters relating to its administration and activities.

The Nansen International Refugee Office shall alone be responsible for its own activities.

**Article 16.**

The persons of whom the organs of the Office are composed shall incur no responsibility, either jointly or severally, in respect of the activities of the Office.

**Article 17.**

The Nansen International Refugee Office shall submit an annual report to the League of Nations Assembly on its activities.

A copy of this report shall be communicated for information to the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission for Refugees.

**Article 18.**

The Nansen International Refugee Office may appoint representatives in countries belonging to the League of Nations,
such representatives to be chosen in agreement with the Governments concerned.

In matters falling within its province, the Hassen International Refugee Office may communicate with the national authorities and Governments of countries belonging to the League of Nations.

The Office may also, with their consent, enter into relations for the same objects with the national authorities and Governments of other countries.

**Article 19.**

The Office and its officials selected for the purpose by the Governing Body shall enjoy diplomatic privileges and immunities similar to those enjoyed by officials of the League of Nations.

**Article 20.**

Within the limits of the present Statutes, the Governing Body shall draw up the requisite executory regulations in the form of Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulations and Staff Regulations.

**Final Article.**

The present Statutes may be amended by the Council of the League of Nations on the proposal of the Governing Body, or after consultation therewith.

Done at Geneva, ......................... 1931.