

UNITED NATIONS DAY

REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

Rapporteur: Mr. G. KAECKENBEECK (Belgium)

The General Assembly decided, on 23 September 1947, to refer to the Sixth Committee for examination and report the question of adopting a "United Nations Charter Day" and a "United Nations Peace Day".

In a memorandum (document A/343) the Secretary-General drew the attention of the Assembly to the desirability of commemorating not only Charter Day, 26 June, in order to remind the peoples of the world of the purposes of the United Nations, but also of adopting 24 October, in commemoration of the coming into force of the Charter, as "United Nations Peace Day", and of devoting that day to commemorations to build up a better understanding of the aims and methods of the United Nations. The Secretary-General suggested that the date of 24 October would be more suitable than 26 June for this particular purpose, because on the latter date school children in the northern hemisphere were on holiday.

At its forty-fourth meeting on Wednesday, 8 October 1947 the Sixth Committee decided, however, in favour of a single "United Nations Day" for the above purposes.

After the representative of Brazil had pointed out that the choice of 24 October would permit children of that part of the world jointly to participate in commemorations designed to impress on them that the United Nations was a living reality, the Committee decided by twenty-one votes to twenty, in favour of 24 October as "United Nations Day".

The Sixth Committee therefore recommends that the General Assembly adopt the following resolution:

UNITED NATIONS DAY

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

DECLARES that 24 October, the anniversary of the coming into force of the Charter of the United Nations, shall henceforth be officially called "United Nations Day" and shall be devoted to making known to the peoples of the world the aims and achievements of the United Nations and to gaining their support for the work of the United Nations;

INVITES Member Governments to co-operate with the United Nations in securing observance of this anniversary.