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STATEMENT BY THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATE
CONCERNING THE FORM OF THE FUTURE ORGANIZATION

DELEGATE OF THE NETHERLANDS (Mrs. Verwey-Jonker): Mr. Chairman, I am speaking on this subject with great reluctance. In the first place because I was not here in person during the last week's proceedings and have had to rely on the reports, in order to judge the questions raised by other delegates. In the second place, I feel some reluctance because, reading those reports, I became aware that everything that could be said on this subject at this stage of the debate has been expressed by one member or the other during the general debate on the Chairman's Plan of Work or on the debate on the amendment we are discussing now, if not in the excellent speech made this morning by Sir George Rendel. I should like to repeat his words at this stage, because, in my opinion, this is not a suitable moment to raise or to decide the question, whether we are going to create a specialized agency or a United Nations organ. To me personally, the outlines of the future body are still vague. I am one of those persons who would like to get clear the general idea of its functions, its competency and power, before deciding on the political status of this body. However, we have decided to have this discussion in this full Committee, so I am obliged to say what I have to say now.

It seems to me, then, that two arguments against the specialized agency have not yet received the emphasis they deserve. The first one, is that of the temporary nature of the work we are going to undertake.

We all agree that the problem of refugees is not, and should not become a permanent problem. Now I am afraid, that if we set up a specialized agency with everything that that involves, with separate machinery and a specialized department, we shall be creating an organization which, in itself, will have a tendency to become permanent. On the other hand, if this new body is going to be a part of the United Nations machinery, it will be much easier to reduce its scope, gradually, as the problems are solved and to put its specialists on other jobs and problems in which the Council will be involved. The second remark I want to make is this. This job of caring for refugees is, in my opinion, essentially a planning job. One of the departments of the new body should be a statistical and planning department. This department should have a much wider task than just to organize resettlement. It should, first of all, collect all data. It should direct information. It should supervise registration before laying out suitable plans for resettlement. I can see this department as an intergral part of the machinery of the Economic and Social Council, working together with planning departments in other related fields, say, for instance, with the Demographic Committee we created during the last Session of the General Assembly. If I contemplate the possibility of a department of a specialized agency from this point of view, it does not seem to fit very well into the programme.

Summarizing, I want to express my view that I am not, at this moment, inclined to vote for the American amendment. I shall be glad to vote for the French one, and I should have had no objection to accepting the Canadian proposal as it was originally put before us; But if this last proposal is carried, we can still make up our minds about the status of the body, and I am quite prepared to consider, very carefully, the case for a specialized agency.