



Miscellaneous No. 3 (1928)

# League of Nations

Forty-Eighth Session of  
the Council

REPORT BY THE RIGHT HON.  
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*British Delegate*

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to Parliament by Command of His Majesty

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## Report on the 48th Session of the Council of the League of Nations.

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THE Council of the League of Nations met at Geneva on Monday, the 5th December, 1927, under the presidency of the Chinese delegate, and held eight public meetings, the last being on the 12th December.

2. The following is a summary of the more important proceedings of the Council:—

### I.—FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION.

#### (1.) *Desire of the Portuguese Government to raise a Loan under the Auspices of the League of Nations.*

3. On the 24th November the Portuguese Minister of Finance addressed a letter to the Secretary-General stating that his Government wished to raise a loan under the auspices of the League for financial reconstruction, currency stabilisation and economic development. The Council referred this desire of the Portuguese Government to the Financial Committee and requested the committee to report thereon at the next session of the Council.

#### (2.) *Financial Reconstruction of Hungary.*

4. The Hungarian Government had requested the Council to authorise the employment of the unexpended balance of the Hungarian Reconstruction Loan, amounting to 33·9 million gold crowns, for capital investments for which provision would be found in the budget for the financial year 1928–29. On the recommendation of the Financial Committee, the Council decided to accede to this request of the Hungarian Government subject to the same conditions as those made in connexion with previous releases for similar purposes.

#### (3.) *Financial Reconstruction of Bulgaria and Settlement of Bulgarian Refugees.*

5. At its 46th session in September 1927 the Council had directed the Financial Committee, at the request of the Bulgarian Government, to examine the financial position of Bulgaria with a view to enabling her to raise an international loan. At the present session the Council merely took note of the reports of the Financial Committee on the settlement of refugees in Bulgaria and on the financial reconstruction of that country. The Bulgarian representa-

tive expressed the hope that, at the next session of the Council, it would be possible to reach agreement on various points raised by the Financial Committee, and thus to enable the desired loan to be issued under the auspices of the League. The chairman of the Financial Committee, Sir Otto Niemeyer, informed the Council that there were three or four points affecting the future financial position of Bulgaria which required elucidation, and that his committee hoped that it would shortly be able to present a complete and concrete scheme.

(4.) *Financial Reconstruction of Greece and Settlement of Greek Refugees.*

6. At its 46th session in September 1927 the Council approved a scheme to enable Greece to raise an international loan in order to complete the work of the Greek Refugee Settlement Commission, to liquidate the budget deficits of past years and to stabilise the Greek currency. The Greek Government had taken the measures incumbent on them in connexion with this scheme, and, on the 8th December, an undertaking was signed on behalf of the three Governments represented on the International Financial Commission at Athens (France, Great Britain and Italy) that they would give their representatives on that commission instructions to ensure the service of the new loan out of available surplus revenues. The Council therefore noted with great satisfaction that the way was clear for putting into execution the scheme approved at its previous session and for commencing negotiations for the issue of the loan, which, it hoped, would meet with complete success.

7. The Greek representative expressed the deep gratitude of his country for the work done by the Council and the technical organisations of the League. The British, French, Italian and Roumanian representatives congratulated the Greek Government on the success which had been achieved.

8. The Council renewed the appointment of Sir John Hope Simpson as vice-chairman of the Greek Refugees Settlement Commission for one year as from the 16th January, 1928.

(5.) *Danzig Municipal Loan of 1925.*

9. At the request of the Danzig Senate and on the recommendation of the Financial Committee, the Council authorised certain changes in the programme of expenditure for the Danzig Municipal Loan of 1925, which were within the limits of the original purposes of that loan.

## II.—POLITICAL.

(1.) *Conference of Press Experts.*

10. The Council in September 1927 directed the League Organisation for Communications and Transit to examine the resolutions of the Press Experts Conference dealing with telegraph

rates, code telegrams, improvements in communications, conveyance of newspapers, and identity cards for journalists, and adjourned consideration of the other resolutions of the conference.

11. On the proposal of the Cuban representative, in his capacity as *rapporteur*, the Council adopted a resolution urging the various Governments and press organisations to give serious consideration to the resolutions of the Press Experts Conference. The Secretary-General was at the same time directed to forward to the various Governments, for their information, the recommendations of the conference regarding subscriptions to newspapers through the post office, repressive measures against foreign journalists, censorship in peace time and the treatment to be accorded to press telegrams. The Secretary-General was also instructed to request the various Governments to state the action which could, in their opinion, be taken on the resolutions of the conference respecting protection of news, professional facilities for journalists, such as travel tours, schools, scholarships for journalists, double taxation of journalists living abroad, reductions of railway fares, equality of treatment for foreign journalists and the facilities for enquiry to be afforded to foreign journalists.

12. A letter had been received from the International Association of Journalists accredited to the League drawing the attention of the Council to the urgent necessity for improving direct telegraphic communications between Geneva and London, as the latter city is the forwarding station for news to America, Australia and the Far East. The Colombian, Japanese, Chinese, Canadian and Chilean representatives expressed the opinion that it was highly desirable that the facilities for direct telegraphic communication between Geneva and London should be improved as soon as possible. On the proposal of the *rapporteur* (Cuban representative), the Council instructed the Secretary-General to forward this letter from the International Association of Journalists to the Organisation for Communications and Transit and to request this organisation to cause the matter to be examined as soon as possible by experts from the countries concerned. The British representative said that this question would be brought to the notice of the Postmaster-General, who would take all possible steps to facilitate the work of the Communications and Transit Organisation and the dissemination of news from the League.

(2.) *Possible Reduction in the Yearly Number of Sessions of the Council.*

13. At its 44th session in March 1927, the Council had requested the Secretary-General to make a report from a purely administrative point of view on the possibility of reducing the yearly number of sessions of the Council from four to three. This report was considered by the Council at its 45th session in June 1927, and it was decided to adjourn the question until after the Assembly in order to enable the representatives of other members of the League to express their views if they should so desire.

14. The Council therefore examined the question again at its present session and, after an exchange of views on the various aspects of the proposed change, directed the Secretary-General to prepare a report for consideration at its next session on various fresh points raised during the discussion.

(3.) *Notification by the Roumanian Government, under Paragraph 2 of Article 11 of the Covenant, of the Withdrawal of its Representative on the Hungaro-Roumanian Mixed Arbitral Tribunal, and Request of the Hungarian Government for the Appointment by the Council, in accordance with Article 239 of the Treaty of Trianon, of two Deputy Arbitrators for the Hungaro-Roumanian Mixed Arbitral Tribunal.*

15. At its 47th session in September 1927 the Council had requested the Hungarian and Roumanian representatives to bring its recommendations for the settlement of this dispute to the knowledge of their respective Governments and to inform the Council of their decision before its next session (see "Miscellaneous No. 2 (1928)," Cmd. 3009). In the meantime, the Roumanian Government had notified the Council of their acceptance of the Council's report on condition that the sanctions, which figured at the end of that report when it was submitted to the Council by the British representative in his capacity as *rapporteur*, were likewise adopted. The Hungarian Government, on the other hand, had stated that they could not accept the recommendations of the Council and that they were endeavouring to effect a direct settlement with the Roumanian Government.

16. The Acting President laid before the Council telegrams from M. Vintila Bratiano, the Roumanian Prime Minister, and M. Titulesco, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, regarding the illness of the latter. In view of these telegrams, the British representative, in his capacity as *rapporteur*, had sent the following telegram to M. Titulesco :—

"The Council will examine telegrams this morning. In the meanwhile, I personally think it preferable for you not to undertake the journey in the present state of your health and before your Government has been able to give full and complete consideration to the proposal that direct negotiations should be undertaken by the parties, without prejudice to their legal point of view or to the decisions of the Council and of the Committee of Three."

17. The Hungarian representative, Count Apponyi, expressed the wish that the Council should endorse the action of the *rapporteur*, and the Council decided to address the following further telegram to M. Titulesco :—

"Council decided this morning to adopt the telegram which the *rapporteur* sent you in his own name. The Council would be unwilling for you to undertake the journey in the present

state of your health and pending the complete examination by your Government of the proposal for direct negotiations between the parties without prejudice to their legal position or to the procedure before the Committee of Three and the Council."

(4.) *Interpretation of Articles 190 and 192 of the Treaty of Versailles in connexion with the Cruiser "Salamis": Request of the Greek Government.*

18. On the 29th June, 1927, the Greek Government applied to the Council to obtain an official interpretation of articles 190 and 192 of the Treaty of Versailles by such means as are at that body's disposal, such as an advisory opinion of the Permanent Court of International Justice.

19. This application of the Greek Government arose out of proceedings pending before the Græco-German Mixed Arbitral Tribunal, to which the Greek Government had applied for a decision annulling contracts concluded in 1912 between the Greek Government and the Vulcan Company at Stettin for the construction of a cruiser, known as the "Salamis," and ordering repayment to the Greek Government of the instalments paid in respect of the cruiser with interest.

20. The request of the Greek Government was considered by the Council at its 46th and 47th sessions in September 1927 (see "Miscellaneous No. 2 (1928)," Cmd. 3009), when it was decided that the question should be adjourned until the present session of the Council, and that the legal advisers of all the members of the Council should study its legal aspects, and in particular the competence of the Council.

21. In accordance with this decision of the Council, the legal advisers examined the legal aspects of the request submitted by the Greek Government and presented a unanimous report, of which the conclusion was as follows:—

"In view of the importance of the principle that the Council should not take any action which could be misinterpreted as an encroachment on the sphere of an international tribunal which has been duly seized of a question, it would be courteous for the Council to address a communication to the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal informing the tribunal that, if it should judge it to be desirable that an interpretation of article 192 (of the Treaty of Versailles) and 190, if that article is considered relevant, should be obtained by way of an advisory opinion by the Permanent Court of International Justice, and should address a communication to that effect, the Council would defer to such a desire."

The Council, which included the representative of Greece for the consideration of this question, approved the report of the legal advisers and directed the Secretary-General to write a letter, on behalf of the Council, to the president of the German-Greek Mixed Arbitral Tribunal in the sense of the above-mentioned conclusion of that report.

(5.) *Request of the Lithuanian Government, dated the 15th October, 1927, under Article 11 of the Covenant, and further Request by that Government of the 26th October, 1927, regarding the Expulsion of Eleven Polish Nationals on to Lithuanian Territory.*

22. The Lithuanian Government had appealed to the Council of the League under article 11 of the Covenant alleging that a danger to peace had arisen in consequence of the acts of the Polish authorities in the Vilna district, who had closed Lithuanian minority schools, imprisoned some minority leaders, and attempted to expel others into Lithuania as reprisals for the treatment of the Polish minority in Lithuania.

23. The Lithuanian Prime Minister, M. Woldemaras, and the Polish Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Zaleski, made statements explaining the views of their respective Governments. M. Zaleski repeated a previous declaration that Poland recognised the political independence and territorial integrity of Lithuania and entertained no hostile designs against that independence. At the same time, M. Zaleski pointed out that the state of war alleged by the Lithuanian Government to exist between the two countries diminished the chance of an improvement in their relations. M. Woldemaras expressed the hope that Poland would no longer constitute a menace to Lithuania; he emphasised the fact that Lithuania, more than any other country, felt the necessity for a friendly understanding with all countries, and that the expression "a state of war" implied merely the absence of normal relations between the two countries. The Lithuanian and Polish representatives agreed that the facts relating to the Lithuanian inhabitants of the Vilna district, to which reference was made in the Lithuanian Government's appeal, should be examined in accordance with the usual procedure for minorities questions, by a Committee of Three, consisting of the acting President of the Council and two other members of the Council appointed by him. As regards the expulsion of eleven persons alleged to be of Polish nationality on to Lithuanian territory mentioned in the request of the Lithuanian Government of the 26th October, 1927, M. Zaleski said that his Government would place no obstacle in the way of the return of these persons to Poland.

24. The Netherlands representative, Jonkheer Beelaerts van Blokland, when submitting the following resolution to the Council, in his capacity as *rapporteur*, pointed out that this decision of the Council would not affect a settlement of the various questions on which the two Governments have differences of opinion, such as the claim of the Lithuanian Government to the territory of Vilna :—

- “ The Council of the League of Nations,
- “ Declares that a state of war between two members of the League is incompatible with the spirit and the letter of the Covenant by which Lithuania and Poland are bound;
- “ Takes note of the solemn declarations made by the Lithuanian representative that Lithuania does not consider

herself in a state of war with Poland and that in consequence peace exists between their respective countries;

“Takes note of the solemn declarations of the Polish representative that the Polish Republic fully recognises and respects the political independence and territorial integrity of the Lithuanian Republic;

“Recommends the two Governments to enter into direct negotiations as soon as possible in order to establish such relations between the two neighbouring States as will ensure ‘the good understanding between nations upon which peace depends’;

“Places at the disposal of the two parties the good offices of the League and of its technical organs should their assistance be desired in the negotiations which it recommends;

“Decides that the Lithuanian Government’s complaints regarding the treatment of persons of Lithuanian race or speech, referred to in its appeal, shall be examined by a committee consisting of the Acting President of the Council and two other members of the Council appointed by him. This committee will report to the Council in due course;

“Decides that in the event of a frontier incident or threat of incident the Secretary-General of the League of Nations may, at the request of one of the parties, consult the Acting President of the Council and the *rapporteur*, who shall then advise any steps they consider necessary to bring about a better state of feeling. The Council notes that both parties have agreed to facilitate any enquiry by the League of Nations;

“Notes with satisfaction the Polish representative’s declaration, to the effect that the Polish nationals referred to in the Lithuanian Government’s appeal will be authorised to return to Poland without hindrance. In case of unforeseen difficulties the *rapporteur* would place his good offices at the disposal of the parties with a view to removing those difficulties;

“The Council declares that the present resolution in no way affects questions on which the two Governments have differences of opinion.”

25. This resolution was accepted by the Polish and Lithuanian representatives and was adopted by the Council.

(6.) *Agreement respecting Græco-Bulgarian Emigration.*

26. At its 46th session in September 1927, the Council asked the Financial Committee to advise the president of the Græco-Bulgarian Mixed Emigration Commission, should he so desire, as to the manner in which the financial obligations incumbent upon the Greek and Bulgarian Governments as the result of the emigration agreement might be settled.

27. The president of the Mixed Commission submitted the whole problem to the Financial Committee, and this committee suggested the general lines on which a solution might be sought.



Negotiations on these lines then took place between the Greek and Bulgarian Governments, which came to a successful conclusion on the 9th December, when an agreement was signed by the Finance Ministers of Greece and Bulgaria and by the president of the Mixed Commission.

28. The Council congratulated the parties to the agreement on the success which had attended their negotiations and accepted that agreement so far as the League of Nations was concerned.

### III.—ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS.

(1.) *Danzig: Transport of Polish Munitions and War Material in transit through the Territory of the Free City: Utilisation of the Westerplatte.*

29. By a resolution of the 14th March, 1924, the Council had decided that the Westerplatte Peninsula in the territory of the Free City of Danzig should be placed at the disposal of the Polish Government for the purpose of unloading, storing and forwarding to Poland war material in transit (see "Miscellaneous No. 4 (1924)," Cmd. 2034). Provisional regulations for the utilisation of the Westerplatte as a depot for munitions of war were issued by the High Commissioner, but as neither the Polish nor the Danzig Government were satisfied with these regulations, the question was referred to the Council on the 30th May, 1927, for a final decision. As there had not been sufficient time to examine it in all its aspects, and as a provisional arrangement made by the High Commissioner was in force, the Council decided at its session in June 1927 to adjourn it until its next session (see "Miscellaneous No. 7 (1927)," Cmd. 2925).

30. When the question was again considered by the Council in September 1927 the German representative raised two questions of principle relating to the responsibility for possible damages resulting from an explosion on territory belonging to the Free City and to the Customs Clearance Service. On Dr. Stresemann's proposal, the Council decided that the *rapporteur* (Chilean representative) should seek the advice of two legal experts of his own choosing, and that he should submit a report at the next session.

31. In accordance with this decision, the Chilean representative, in his capacity as *rapporteur*, obtained the advice of Sir Cecil Hurst, Legal Adviser to the Foreign Office, and M. Massimo Pilotti, Legal Adviser to the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, on the following points: the supervision of safety measures, customs clearance and the definition of war material. M. Villegas then submitted to the Council the opinion of the legal experts on these points, and invited the members of the Council to express their views on the procedure to be followed. The President of the Danzig Senate asked the Council to adopt a resolution based on the opinion given by the legal experts. The Polish representative, on the other hand, considered that a decision based on the opinion of the legal experts would give rise to difficulties, and he therefore asked the

Council to obtain an advisory opinion from the Permanent Court of International Justice. The German representative said that he would agree to a decision based on the opinion of the legal experts, and, whilst he recognised the right of the Polish representative to have recourse to the Permanent Court of International Justice, he would be glad if the Polish representative would abandon his request for an advisory opinion from that court. The British representative observed that this was the seventeenth occasion on which the Council had been occupied with this question, and, as it had been anticipated that a decision would be adopted which was based on the opinion of the legal experts and as a settlement satisfactory to all would not be obtained by securing another legal opinion, he urged the Polish representative to abandon his request for an advisory opinion from the Permanent Court of International Justice. In view of the desire that the question should not be referred to that court for an advisory opinion, the Polish representative suggested that an effort should be made to secure a practical solution at Danzig which would avoid the legal difficulties that had arisen. This suggestion was supported by the French representative, and was accepted by the President of the Danzig Senate.

32. The Council adopted a resolution inviting the Polish Government and that of the Free City of Danzig to open direct negotiations for a practical settlement of the question under the presidency of the High Commissioner and with the assistance of such technical experts as might be required. These Governments were also recommended to take into consideration the opinion submitted to the *rapporteur* by the legal experts.

(2.) *Danzig: Access to and Anchorage for Polish War Vessels in the Port of Danzig.*

33. On the 2nd August, 1927, the Danzig Senate informed the Acting President of the Council that it considered that the maintenance of the provisional agreement concluded with Poland in 1921 for the use by Polish warships of Danzig as a "port d'attache" was no longer necessary in view of the development of the Polish port of Gdynia, and that it had given notice of termination of the agreement to the Polish Government. The Danzig Senate therefore requested the Council to re-examine the question and to give a definite decision thereon.

34. At its 46th session in September 1927 the Council invited the Polish Government to communicate its observations through the High Commissioner to the Danzig Senate before the 15th October, and suggested that direct negotiations should take place between the two parties under the chairmanship of the High Commissioner and with the assistance of the president of the Harbour Board.

35. At its present session the Council was informed by the High Commissioner that it had not been possible for direct negotiations to take place between the two parties. However, the Danzig Government stated that it was ready to make detailed proposals for a practical arrangement to allow Polish war vessels access to and

anchorage in the port of Danzig in accordance with the rules of international law. The Council therefore again invited the two parties to engage in direct negotiations under the chairmanship of the High Commissioner and with the assistance of the president of the Harbour Board. The Council also decided that, if no agreement was reached four weeks before its next session, the president of the Naval Sub-Committee of the Permanent Advisory Commission on Naval, Military and Air Questions should appoint two experts to go to Danzig, assist the High Commissioner during the rest of the negotiations and enable him to present definite proposals to the Council respecting the technical regulations required.

#### IV.—MANDATES.

##### (1.) *Liquor Traffic in Mandated Territories.*

36. On the 23rd September, 1927, the Eighth Assembly adopted the following resolution respecting liquor traffic in mandated territories :—

“The Assembly congratulates the Permanent Mandates Commission on its success in defining the important terms concerning the liquor traffic used in the B and C mandates and in the Convention of Saint-Germain of the 10th September, 1919, and expresses the hope that all the mandatory Powers will soon be able to indicate their acceptance of these definitions.

“It asks the Council to request the Permanent Mandates Commission, in collaboration with the mandatory Powers, to continue to give serious consideration to the causes of the increased importation of spirituous liquors into certain territories under B mandate, and to the steps which have been taken to deal with this problem.”

37. On the proposal of the Netherlands representative, in his capacity as *rappporteur*, the Council adopted the following resolution :—

“The Council requests the mandatory Powers which have not already sent a reply on this question to inform it whether they will soon be able to indicate their acceptance of the recommendations of the Permanent Mandates Commission on the definition of certain terms relating to the traffic in liquors used in the B and C mandates and in the Convention of Saint-Germain-en-Laye of the 10th September, 1919, and which were forwarded to the mandatory Powers in accordance with the Council resolution of the 7th March, 1927.

“The Council requests the Permanent Mandates Commission, in collaboration with the mandatory Powers, to continue to give serious consideration to the causes of the increased importation of spirituous liquors into those territories under B mandates where such an increase is taking place, and to the steps to remedy this situation.”

38. When submitting this resolution to the Council, the Netherlands representative drew attention to the fact that hitherto

only His Majesty's Government in Great Britain had accepted the definition concerning liquor traffic drawn up by the Permanent Mandates Commission.

#### V.—SECURITY AND DISARMAMENT.

##### (1.) *Expeditious enforcement of the Obligations of the Covenant.*

39. At its 45th session in June 1927, the Council adopted a resolution directing the Secretary-General to communicate to the members of the League the report of the Committee of the Council on various questions arising out of the application of article 11 of the Covenant. At the same time the Council stated that, whilst it had been favourably impressed by a preliminary examination of the suggestions and observations contained in that report, yet it considered it desirable to postpone a final decision until after the Assembly, so that all the members of the League might be given an opportunity to comment on the report should they desire to do so. The Eighth Assembly adopted two resolutions—

- (i) asserting the obligations of States members of the League to facilitate by every means in their power the rapid meeting of the Council in times of emergency, and requesting the Council to continue its study of the proposals made for assuring communications between the seat of the League and the different capitals; and
- (ii) approving the report of the Committee of the Council of March 1927 in regard to the procedure to be followed in dealing with appeals made to the Council under article 11 of the Covenant.

40. At its present session, the Council decided to approve the report of its committee and to adopt it "as a valuable guide which, without restricting the the Council's liberty to decide at any moment the best methods to be adopted in case of any threat to peace, summarises the results of experience, of the procedure already followed, and of the studies so far carried out with a view to the best possible organisation of its activities in case of emergency."

##### (2.) *Appointment of the Presidents of the Committees of Investigation in connexion with the Disarmament Clauses of the Treaties of Peace.*

41. The Council had to appoint, for a period of one year, the presidents of the Committees of Investigation established by the Rules for the Application of the Right of Investigation which belongs to the Council under the Peace Treaties. The terms of office of the present presidents expire during January and February 1928, and General Bonham-Carter had been appointed by His Majesty's Government in Great Britain to a post which prevented him from continuing to act as president of the Committee of Investigation for Hungary.

42. The Council therefore made the following appointments for one year:—

- Committee of Investigation in Germany : General Baratier.
- Committee of Investigation in Austria : General Calcagno.
- Committee of Investigation in Bulgaria : Colonel Schuurman.
- Committee of Investigation in Hungary : General G. C. Clive.

43. In cases where one of the presidents is obliged at any time during the year to give up his post, the Council decided that, in order to avoid the necessity for a meeting to appoint a successor, its acting president should be authorised to nominate that successor for the remainder of the term of office on the proposal of the Government of the retiring president of a Committee of Investigation, and that this nomination should be submitted for the Council's approval at its next ordinary session.

#### VI.—TECHNICAL ORGANISATIONS.

##### (1.) *Economic Committee.*

44. At its 47th session on the 28th September, 1927, the Council decided upon the composition of the Economic Committee, appointing twelve members, and at the same time authorising its Acting President to nominate the three remaining members, who should be nationals of Poland, India and the United States of America. The Acting President of the Council had therefore nominated M. Dolezal, Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Commerce in Warsaw, and Mr. Lindsay, Indian Trade Commissioner in London, to be members of the committee; the appointment of a national of the United States of America was still in abeyance.

45. Mr. Matsuyama, a Japanese subject, had been compelled to resign from the Economic Committee owing to pressure of official business. On the proposal of the *rapporteur* (German representative), the Council appointed Mr. N. Ito, a Japanese subject, to replace Mr. Matsuyama.

46. The composition of the Economic Committee is:—

- M. Brunet (Belgium).
- M. Barboza-Carneiro (Brazil).
- Sir Sydney Chapman (Great Britain).
- M. d.Nola (Italy).
- M. Dolezal (Poland).
- M. Dvoracek (Czechoslovakia).
- Mr. Ito (Japan).
- M. Jahn (Norway).
- Mr. Lindsay (India).
- M. Neculceu (Roumania).
- M. Schüller (Austria).
- M. Serruys (France).
- M. Stucki (Switzerland).
- M. Trendelenburg (Germany).
- A national of the United States of America.

*Corresponding members.*

Mr. Campion (Australia).  
 Mr. Yensen (Denmark).  
 M. Curcin (Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes).  
 A Chinese national.

47. On the proposal of the Chilean, Colombian and Cuban representatives on the Council, the following corresponding members were added :—

An Argentine national.  
 A Chilean national.  
 A Venezuelan national.

(2.) *Economic Consultative Committee.*

48. The Eighth (1927) Assembly had adopted the following resolution in regard to the formation of an Economic Consultative Committee :—

“ That a ‘ Consultative Committee,’ the object of which is to follow the application of the Economic Conference recommendations, should be constituted by the Council.

“ It might be composed of about thirty-five members, as was the Preparatory Committee, and the conditions of equilibrium attained in the latter between the various elements should be maintained as far as possible.

“ It should therefore include, among others, persons competent in industry, commerce, agriculture, finance, transport, labour questions and questions relative to consumption.

“ The International Labour Office should be invited to submit the names of three labour members for this committee.

“ The Council will doubtless also wish to secure for the committee, the co-operation of the International Institute of Agriculture and the International Chamber of Commerce.

“ Five members chosen by the Economic Committee should take part in the work of the Consultative Committee with the same rights as the other members.

“ The Consultative Committee should submit its report directly to the Council of the League of Nations. - At the same time, it would forward a copy to the Economic Committee and to the other technical organisations concerned.”

49. In accordance with this resolution, the German representative, in his capacity as *rapporteur*, submitted a list of forty-seven persons to be invited to serve on this Consultative Committee. In order to secure a well-balanced representation for industry, commerce, agriculture, finance, labour questions and questions affecting consumers and also to provide equitable representation for the various countries, it proved necessary to exceed the number of thirty-five persons suggested by the Assembly. The list submitted by Dr. Stresemann comprised the three members nominated by the International Labour Office in accordance with decision of the

Assembly, and places were reserved therein for two nationals of the United States of America, for two nationals of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, for an Australian national and for two representatives of the International Chamber of Commerce. On the proposal of the *rapporteur*, the Council directed the Secretary-General to invite the persons named in the list submitted by Dr. Stresemann and also to invite the president of the International Institute of Agriculture to serve on the Consultative Committee, and decided that :—

- (a.) The members of this committee were personally appointed by the Council and did not represent their Governments.
- (b.) The Council might make modifications at any time in the composition of the committee and would in any case revise the whole list within three years.
- (c.) In addition to the members named in the list submitted by Dr. Stresemann, the committee would also comprise five members appointed by the Economic Committee and one member appointed by the Financial Committee.
- (d.) M. G. Theunis would be invited to be chairman of the Committee and M. Loucheur, M. Colijn and Sir Atul Chatterjee to be vice-chairmen.
- (e.) The chairman and vice-chairmen would take any preparatory measures that might be required for the meeting of the committee.
- (f.) The date of the meeting of the committee would be fixed—by the Council, on the advice of the chairman of the committee and of the Secretary-General.

50. The Council at the same time accepted the recommendations contained in Dr. Stresemann's report that he should be empowered to appoint to the places reserved for them in the list which he had submitted: the two representatives of the International Chamber of Commerce in regard to whom that Chamber would be consulted, the two nationals of the United States of America, the two nationals of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, and the Australian national. The *rapporteur* and the chairmen of the committee were also empowered to fill such vacancies as might occur between Council sessions.

(9.) *Financial Committee.*

51. This committee submitted reports to the Council on the employment of the balance of the Hungarian Reconstruction Loan, the financial reconstruction of Greece, changes in the programme of expenditure for the Danzig Municipal Loan of 1925, and the financial reconstruction of Bulgaria and the settlement of Bulgarian refugees. These questions are dealt with in the chapter of this summary headed "Financial and Economic Reconstruction."

(4.) *Health Committee.*

52. The report of the Health Committee on the work of its 12th session dealt with co-operation with Latin-American countries,

co-operation with Pacific and Far Eastern countries, a proposed second conference on sleeping sickness, the work of the various commissions under the direction of the Health Committee and a recommendation that encodal and dicodide are harmful narcotics.

53. The Council approved the report of the Health Committee. As regards co-operation with Latin-American countries in health questions, the Council requested the Secretary-General to consider, in consultation with the Argentine and Brazilian Governments, a method of arranging that the schools and centres of study, which are to be established in the Argentine and Brazil, should be placed under the auspices of the League. With regard to co-operation with Pacific and Far Eastern countries, the Council directed that the possibility should be considered of arranging for an enquiry to be held at an early date into health conditions in Papua, New Guinea, New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands and the Fiji Islands in accordance with a request of the Eighth Assembly and a recommendation of the Pacific International Health Conference of 1926. The International Commission for the study of sleeping sickness which was formed in accordance with the recommendations of the International Conference on this subject held in London in 1925 having finished its work, the Council directed, on the recommendation of the Health Committee, that an enquiry should be addressed to the Belgian, Spanish, British, French, Italian and Portuguese Governments which participated in the International Conference on Sleeping Sickness of 1925, whether they would be prepared to send delegates to a second conference to study the report of the above-mentioned commission. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to forward to the Governments signatory to the Opium Convention of 1925 the recommendation of the Health Committee that encodal and dicodide should be subject to the provisions of that convention.

(5.) *Committee of Experts for the Progressive Codification of International Law.*

54. In accordance with a request contained in a resolution adopted by the Eighth (1927) Assembly concerning the Progressive Codification of International Law (see "Miscellaneous No. 1 (1928)," Cmd. 3008) the Council:—

- (a.) Invited the Committee of Experts on the Progressive Codification of International Law to consider, at its next session, the report of the First Committee of the Assembly on the proposal of the delegate of Paraguay for the preparation of a general and comprehensive plan of Codification of International Law and to report on the conditions under which this task could be undertaken; and
- (b.) Instructed the Secretary-General to study the procedure of international conferences and the procedure for the conclusion and drafting of treaties.



## VII.—SOCIAL QUESTIONS.

(1.) *Report of the Opium Advisory Committee on its 10th Session in October 1927.*

55. This extra session of the Opium Advisory Committee was convened by the chairman of that committee who was authorised by the Council at its session in March 1927 to do so in order that the over production of drugs and its relation to the illicit traffic might be studied. At the same time, however, the committee discussed other questions.

56. As regards illicit traffic in opium and other dangerous drugs the committee adopted four resolutions. The first of these resolutions drew attention to the urgent necessity for the entry into force of the Geneva Opium Convention of 1925 in order to effect progress in combating the illicit traffic and urged that four further States members of the Council should ratify that instrument and thus bring it into force. The second resolution requested the Council to ask the Chinese Government to send to the committee early and detailed reports of all important seizures of narcotics effected by the Chinese Maritime Customs. The third resolution requested the Council to ask all Governments to state in their annual reports on seizures of narcotics the precise manner in which such confiscated substances had been dealt with and to give all possible details in regard to their disposal. The third resolution of the committee began as follows:—

“The illicit traffic undoubtedly continues on an enormous scale, it is backed by huge financial resources and drugs are still being smuggled in very large quantities. It appears impossible at present to restrict the export from producing countries of raw opium of coca leaves to the small quantity necessary to supply the medical needs of the world. Experience also shows that the smuggling of drugs can be restricted to a considerable extent, but cannot be wholly stopped, by measures that fall short of complete control, in view of the great financial gains which ensue from the smuggling of even small quantities. If all drug factories were adequately controlled by their Governments, the drug problem would in a large measure be solved.

“The committee therefore requests the Council to urge as insistently as possible upon all Governments members of the League and parties to the Opium Convention that all factories manufacturing dangerous drugs should be owned or adequately controlled by their Governments.”

The resolution then enumerated the advantages which would be derived from the adoption of this recommendation.

57. As regards the resolution of the Opium Advisory Committee respecting the entry into force of the Geneva Opium Convention of 1925, the Council directed the Secretary-General to communicate again with all members of the League not yet parties to the convention directing their attention to the importance of its entry into force. The Canadian representative informed the Council that

his Government intended to submit the convention to Parliament with a view to its ratification at the forthcoming session. The German representative said that his Government were obliged to maintain the reservation made by the German representative when signing the convention whereby ratification was dependent on a German expert becoming a member of the Central Board which would be set up as soon as the convention entered into force. The Finnish representative stated that the instrument of ratification by his Government had just been deposited with the League Secretariat.

58. The Council directed the Secretary-General to forward to the Chinese Government the resolution of the Opium Advisory Committee respecting seizures of narcotics effected by the Chinese Maritime Customs. The Secretary-General was also instructed to direct the attention of the various Governments to the resolution of the committee respecting the need for accurate information as to the ultimate fate of confiscated drugs.

59. As regards the recommendation of the committee that all drug factories should be adequately controlled by their respective Governments, the Council requested the Secretary-General to communicate this resolution to States members and non-members of the League.

60. The Swedish Government had submitted certain reservations in regard to the Opium Convention of 1925, and the Norwegian Government had intimated that it experienced similar difficulties. The Opium Advisory Committee expressed the opinion that the objections of the Swedish Government did not concern the fundamental provisions of the convention, but referred to incidental provisions of a technical character. The committee therefore expressed the hope that the Swedish Government would reconsider these reservations. On the recommendation of the Opium Advisory Committee, the Council decided that the views expressed by that committee on this question should be communicated to the Swedish and Norwegian Governments, and these Governments should be informed that the committee would re-examine the question at its next session.

61. The Opium Advisory Committee also examined the report of the Committee of Enquiry on the Production of Opium in Persia, congratulated this committee on its work and thanked the Persian Government for the response made to the suggestions put forward in that report; at the same time, however, the Opium Advisory Committee pointed out that, as a rule, any opium exported from Persia and not covered by import certificates became absorbed in the illicit traffic.

62. During the discussion of the report of the Opium Advisory Committee, the Italian representative pointed out that, when the Central Board as at present proposed came to be established, it would be a somewhat small body and many States interested in the suppression of the drug traffic could not be represented thereon. However, if the Secretariat of the Central Board could be so constituted as to form part of the social section of the League

Secretariat, there would be no further difficulties, as all States would, through the League, be able to supervise the work of that board. Senator Scialoja added that the adoption of this proposal would be an interpretation of article 20 of the Geneva Opium Convention of 1925. This suggestion was referred to the Opium Advisory Committee, and the next session of that committee was fixed for the 10th April, 1928.

(2.) *Child Welfare Committee.*

63. On the proposal of the *rapporteur* (Canadian representative), the Council decided that the next session of this committee should begin on the 19th March, 1928.

64. M. Valdes Valdes, who had sat on the Child Welfare Committee as an assessor and had been nominated by the Pan-American Congress for Child Welfare, had now resigned. The Council therefore directed the Secretary-General to ask this congress to nominate a candidate, whose name would be submitted to the Council at its next session.

(3.) *Traffic in Women and Children Committee.*

65. On the proposal of the *rapporteur* (British representative), the Council decided that the next session of this committee should begin on the 12th March, 1928.

66. The Council now considered the action to be taken on Part II of the Report by the Special Body of Experts on the Extent of the International Traffic in Women and Children. At its 44th session in March 1927 the Council had decided that Part II of this report should be sent to the various Governments for their observations. At its 45th session in June 1927 the Council decided that the Governments should be invited to forward their observations by the end of September; that a meeting of the Special Body of Experts should be convened, if funds were available, about the middle of November to consider the communications of the Governments and to make such modifications in Part II of the report as were useful and necessary; and that Part II of the report should then be submitted to the Council during its 1st session after the meeting of the experts and should be published immediately after that session of the Council. In accordance with this decision, the Special Body of Experts held a meeting in Geneva from the 15th to the 27th November, for which funds were provided by the American Bureau of Social Hygiene. The experts now presented two documents to the Council:—

- (a.) Part II of their report modified in light of the observations of the various Governments.
- (b.) Communications from various Governments with the comments of the Special Body of Experts thereon.

67. The British representative, in his capacity as *rapporteur*, asked Dr. Snow, the chairman of the Special Body of Experts, to inform the Council of the nature of the reservation made by

Dr. Paulina Luisi, a member of that body, in regard to Part II of the report. Dr. Snow explained that Dr. Paulina Luisi had been unable to accept the report, as she had not attended all the meetings at which it was discussed, and did not altogether agree with its contents as regards South America, but that, nevertheless, she had no objection to its publication.

68. On the proposal of Sir Austen Chamberlain, the Council decided to publish Part II of the report as amended together with the communications from various Governments, and the comments of the Special Body of Experts thereon. The Council also decided to refer to the Traffic in Women and Children Committee a suggestion made by the Special Body of Experts that their work should be continued and extended.

#### (4.) *International Relief Union.*

69. After considering the results of the Conference for the Creation of an International Relief Union, the Eighth (1927) Assembly adopted a resolution in which it requested the president of that conference and the members of experts of its Preparatory Committee "to hold themselves at the Council's disposal to propose to it all measures that may be calculated to facilitate the putting into force and the application of the convention concluded by the conference."

70. In accordance with this resolution of the Assembly, the Council invited the Preparatory Committee of the International Relief Union to meet in the near future, under the chairmanship of the president of that conference, in order to carry out the work therein indicated. The date of this meeting was to be fixed by the Secretary-General in agreement with the president of the conference. If supplementary investigations were required as a result of that meeting, the Preparatory Committee was requested to appoint as small a body as possible to continue the work on its behalf.

### VIII.—MINORITIES.

#### (1.) *Minority Schools in Upper Silesia.*

71. As a result of a controversy which had arisen respecting the right of a number of children to enter minority schools in Upper Silesia, the Council decided at its 44th session in March 1927 that an impartial examination should be made by a Swiss professor of children entering German minority schools in the 1926-27 scholastic year to determine whether or not they were genuine members of the minority.

72. The president of the Mixed Commission in Upper Silesia had decided that the same test should be applied to children entering German minority schools in the scholastic year 1927-28. The German Government lodged an appeal with the Council against this decision, stating that it only applied to the particular case of children entering minority schools in the scholastic year 1926-27.

73. The German representative now informed the Council that his Government intended to apply, in accordance with the terms of the Upper Silesian Convention of May 1922, to the Permanent Court of International Justice for an interpretation of provisions of that convention which were involved. The Council took note of this statement by the German representative.

#### IX.—GENERAL QUESTIONS.

##### (1.) *Legal Aid for the Poor.*

74. The Fifth (1924) Assembly had requested the Secretariat of the League to collect and publish information showing the arrangements by which, in the various countries and as between the various countries, help in legal matters is made available for the poor. The Secretary-General was also requested to ask the various States, including States not members of the League, whether they would be disposed to become parties to a new Convention dealing specifically with free legal aid for the poor, on the basis of the principles formulated in articles 20 and 23 of The Hague Convention of the 17th July, 1905.

75. The Council now had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General containing the desired information. This memorandum showed that several countries were ready to become parties to a convention on the subject, but that, on the other hand, this question would probably be examined by the Conference on International Private Law which was to be held in January 1923 at The Hague under the auspices of the Netherlands Government. In these circumstances, the Council decided to instruct the Secretary-General to forward to the Netherlands Government the information which had been supplied to the Secretariat in accordance with the resolution of the Fifth (1924) Assembly.

##### (2.) *Convention for the Execution of Foreign Arbitral Awards.*

76. On the 26th September, 1927, the Eighth Assembly adopted a resolution opening a convention, which provided for the enforcement of arbitral awards made in foreign countries, for signature by all States, which are contracting parties to the protocol of 1923 dealing with the mutual recognition of arbitration clauses in commercial contracts. The Eighth Assembly also invited the Council "to take whatever measures it may deem expedient to draw the attention of members of the League and all non-member States to the value of the above-mentioned protocol (of 1923) and the convention (of 1927) and to the conditions under which they may become contracting parties to these agreements." The Council therefore directed the Secretary-General to address a letter to all States in the sense of this resolution of the Assembly.

77. The Convention for the Execution of Foreign Arbitral Awards (1927) was signed on the 12th December by Sir Austen Chamberlain on behalf of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(3.) *Counterfeiting of Currency.*

78. At its 43rd session in December 1926 the Council decided that the possibility of drafting an international convention to facilitate the suppression of the counterfeiting of currency should be examined by a mixed committee consisting of specialists in international criminal law, prosecution authorities, delegates of the Banks of Issue and one or two representatives of the Financial Committee (see "Miscellaneous No. 1 (1927)," Cmd. 2799). This mixed committee submitted a report to the Council, together with a draft convention.

79. On the proposal of the Finnish representative, in his capacity as *rapporteur*, the Council directed the Secretary-General to forward the report of the mixed committee and the draft convention to all States, members and non-members of the League, for their opinion, and to convene a general conference in a year's time for the final adoption of a convention by as many States as possible. The Council also decided that certain recommendations of the mixed committee should be brought to the notice of the Committee of Experts for the Progressive Codification of International Law, and that the draft convention and report should be communicated to the central banks.

(4.) *International Conference for the Abolition of Import and Export Prohibitions and Restrictions.*

80. The Council heard a statement on the work of the Conference for the Abolition of Import and Export Prohibitions and Restrictions by M. Colijn, who had been president of that conference. The text of the convention concluded at the conference had previously been communicated to all States members of the League and to the non-member States which were represented at the conference. The Council decided that the convention should be sent with a view to signature to the non-member States which were not represented; these were the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Ecuador.

81. In its Final Act, the conference had recommended that the Council should arrange for meetings of experts with a view to an international understanding which would reconcile the necessity of protecting animals and plants against diseases with the necessity of preventing such protection from giving rise to arbitrary measures unduly hindering international trade. The Council requested the Economic Committee to study this question.

82. The conference had devised machinery for the consideration of exceptions to the rules contained in the convention which may be formulated by the various States before the 1st February, 1928. In order to prevent, in particular, the submission of any reservations concerning hides, skins and bones, in respect of which an export prohibition exists in certain countries, the conference had recommended that the States interested should confer together with a view to the simultaneous abolition of these prohibitions. The Council referred this question also to the Economic Committee.

83. The entry into force of the convention was dependent upon certain conditions to be discussed at a further session of the conference at some date between the 15th June and the 15th July. The Council invited M. Colijn to take the chair at this second session of the conference.

(5.) *Relations between the League of Nations and Institutes or Bodies set up under its Authority.*

84. The Eighth (1927) Assembly invited the Council to cause a study to be made of the relations between the League and institutes or bodies set up under its authority, but not forming part of its organisation, and the principles which should govern their acceptance by the Council.

85. The Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a preliminary memorandum in accordance with the resolution of the Assembly, and to include in his memorandum the question of the relations between the League and institutes or bodies which may in the future be the subject of offers to the League analogous to the offers made by the French and Italian Governments and accepted by the Assembly and the Council in the case of the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, the Institute for the Unification of Private Law, and the International Educational Cinematographic Institute.

AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN.

London, January 17, 1928.

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