



Miscellaneous No. 6 (1927)

League of Nations

Forty-Fourth Session of the
Council

REPORT BY THE RIGHT HON.
SIR AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, K.G., M.P.
British Delegate

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to Parliament by Command of His Majesty

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Report on the 44th Session of the Council of the League of Nations.

THE Council of the League of Nations met in Geneva on Monday, the 7th March, 1927, under the presidency of the German delegate, Herr Stresemann. Eight public meetings were held, the last being on the afternoon of Saturday, the 12th March.

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

I.—FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION.

(1.) *Financial Reconstruction of Hungary.*

3. On the recommendation of the Financial Committee, the Council authorised the allocation of 50 million gold crowns from the balance of the Hungarian Reconstruction Loan for investment during the financial year 1927–28, in accordance with a plan submitted by the Hungarian Government.

(2.) *Banking and Currency Situation of Estonia and Loan to be raised by the Estonian Government.*

4. At its Forty-third Session, in December 1926, the Council approved the issue of a loan by the Estonian Government under the auspices of the League of Nations (see “Miscellaneous No. 1 (1927),” Cmd. 2799). The Council had, however, stipulated that before this issue could take place, certain conditions should be fulfilled. The Financial Committee now reported that these conditions had been fulfilled and that it had approved the issue of the loan. The Council endorsed the action of the Financial Committee and appointed Sir Walter Williamson, K.C.M.G., adviser to the Estonian Bank of Issue. The Estonian delegate (General Laidoner) thanked the Council for the assistance rendered to his country in banking and currency reform.

II.—POLITICAL QUESTIONS.

(1.) *Ratification of Agreements and Conventions concluded under the Auspices of the League.*

5. At its Forty-third Session, in December 1926, the Council instructed the Secretary-General to submit a report at its next session on the progress made in the ratification of international agreements concluded under the auspices of the League of Nations (see “Miscellaneous No. 1 (1927),” Cmd. 2799). The Secretary-General now submitted a list of eighteen international agreements concluded under these conditions. This list also included eight amendments to articles 16 and 26 of the Covenant, which had been

proposed at various times but had not yet come into force, but it did not make mention of amendments to articles 4, 6, 12, 13 and 15, which had been duly ratified. Of the eighteen agreements, the report showed that the following four were not yet in force: (1) Opium Convention of the 19th February, 1925; (2) Arms Traffic Convention of the 17th June, 1925, and Protocols attached thereto; (3) Convention on the Measurement of Vessels employed in Inland Navigation of the 27th November, 1925; (4) Convention on Slavery of the 25th September, 1926.

6. The British delegate took this opportunity of reminding the Council that although two years had elapsed since the Opium Convention had been drawn up, very few ratifications had been deposited, notwithstanding the resolutions adopted by the Council and Assembly during the past two years urging the early ratification of that instrument. As the convention could not enter into force until it had been ratified by seven States represented on the Council, Sir Austen Chamberlain expressed the hope that seven members of the Council would ratify the convention at an early date. The *rapporteur* (the Polish delegate) pointed out that the question of the Opium Convention would be fully dealt with in another report which he would have the honour to make to the Council.

7. The Swiss Federal Government had informed the Secretary-General of the League that they were experiencing some difficulty in estimating the legal weight of accessions which were dependent on subsequent ratification. According to earlier procedure, accession was always complete on notification; this rule was still followed by the majority of States and it was only recently that the practice of accession subject to ratification had been followed. On the proposal of the *rapporteur*, the Council decided to circulate the Secretary-General's report on this subject to the Members of the League and to cause this question to be placed on the agenda of the next Assembly.

(2.) *Application of the Principle of Proportional Representation to the Election of Non-Permanent Members of the Council.*

8. This question had been adjourned from the Forty-third Session of the Council in December 1926 (see "Miscellaneous No. 1 (1927)," Cmd. 2799). In the meantime, a further memorandum had been received from the Norwegian Government in which they expressed the opinion that the single transferable vote system is the only form of proportional representation which could be successfully applied to elections to the Council. The Norwegian Government concurred in the view expressed at the previous session of the Council that its earlier memorandum on this subject contained all the information required and that a further technical study would be superfluous. On the proposal of the *rapporteur* (the Japanese delegate), the Council instructed the Secretary-General to circulate to the Members of the League the two memoranda received from the Norwegian Government and any communications that might be received from other Members of the League on this subject.

(3.) *Form of Treaties to be Negotiated in Future under the Auspices of the League of Nations.*

9. The Council took note of the following statement by the British delegate :—

“ I understand that a conference under the auspices of the League may assemble in Geneva in July next, and I think it may be convenient to my colleagues to know that at the meeting of the Imperial Conference in London last autumn it was found that, for constitutional reasons with which I need not trouble the Council, the acceptance by the Governments of the British Empire of treaties negotiated under the auspices of the League would be facilitated if a change could be made in the form in which such instruments are drawn up. It has been the practice for League treaties to be made in the form of treaties between States. The common practice before the Treaty of Versailles was for treaties or conventions to be made in the form of an agreement between the Heads of States. The Governments of the British Empire hope that instead of continuing the novel form adopted for the first time in the Treaty of Versailles, future treaties concluded under the auspices of the League may be made to conform to the general practice followed in the case of other treaties and may be expressed as an agreement between Heads of States.

“ I should add that I make this statement at the express desire of all the Governments represented at the Imperial Conference.

“ I wish to repeat that we suggest this reversion to the older form because our discussions showed that it will facilitate acceptance of such treaties by the Governments of the British Empire and thus help forward the work of the League.

“ The Covenant of the League of Nations has omitted to take note of the fact that there is an entity, Great Britain, as well as the Dominions. The seat which I occupy here and in the Assembly is attributed by the Covenant to the ‘ British Empire,’ but the Dominions sit in the Assembly in their own names. Great Britain appears nowhere, and the existing form of treaty concluded under the auspices of the League, therefore, causes us some inconvenience. If the League were willing to revert to the older and well established form, it would facilitate our acceptance of treaties negotiated under its auspices.”

10. The Council took note of this statement.

(4.) *Incident on the Græco-Bulgarian Frontier.*

11. One of the recommendations made by the Council at its 37th session in December 1925 (see “ Miscellaneous, No. 4 (1926),” Cmd. 2646), when liquidating this incident and proposing measures to prevent the occurrence of similar incidents in the future, dealt with the position of Greek and Bulgarian refugees who had not taken advantage of the Convention on Voluntary Emigration

between Bulgaria and Greece of the 27th November, 1919. The Mixed Commission entrusted with the supervision of the execution of this Convention had extended until the 15th December, 1926, the time limit for the deposit of declarations by persons desiring to take advantage of the terms of that convention. The Council were informed that more than 4,000 such declarations had been received affecting some 13,000 persons. This figure was considered disappointing, but, as no useful purpose would be served by a further prolongation of the time limit for the deposit of these declarations, the Council decided merely to take note of the results which had been obtained.

12. Another recommendation made by the Council in December 1925 related to the liquidation of the property of those persons who had taken advantage of the Convention on Voluntary Emigration. Statistical tables of the progress achieved in this respect were submitted to the Council, from which it was noted that on the 31st December, 1925, seventy liquidations of a total value of 525,000 dollars had been effected. On the 22nd February, 1927, this number had been increased to 3,157 liquidations of a total value of 2,600,000 dollars. The Council were informed that there were some 40,000 claims in all, and, as so much of the work of liquidation remained to be done, they expressed a desire to receive a report on the progress made in this respect at their next session.

13. The Bulgarian delegate assured the Council that his Government had taken all possible measures to persuade those concerned to make declarations of emigration, and that they had granted additional credits amounting to almost double those expended in the preceding year in order to accelerate the liquidation of the emigrants' properties.

14. The Greek delegate informed the Council that his Government could in no way be blamed for the small number of persons who had taken advantage of the Convention on Voluntary Emigration. He felt confident that at the next session of the Council the two Governments would be able to announce the completion of the work undertaken by the Mixed Commission.

15. The *rapporteur* (the British delegate) closed the discussion by stating that, whilst he shared the hope expressed by the Bulgarian and Greek delegates that when the Council met in June great progress would have been made, not only with regard to the settlement of the terms of liquidation but also with regard to the actual payment of the sums due in respect of liquidated properties, yet the Council had reason to follow this question with continued interest on account of the painful and difficult situation that existed when the matter was first brought to its notice.

(5.) *Press Experts Conference.*

16. In accordance with a resolution adopted by the Sixth Assembly in September 1925 (see "Miscellaneous, No. 1 (1926)," Cmd. 2576), the Council had at previous sessions taken the necessary measures to prepare for a conference of press experts, and had caused an agenda for such a conference to be drawn up

by representatives of the press. The Council now decided to convene this conference to meet in Geneva on the 24th August, and to invite about forty experts to take part who would be mainly proprietors of newspapers and directors of news agencies with representatives of the directors of press bureaux and certain international press associations, also the president of the Committee of Journalists at the seat of the League as assessors. The Council also invited Viscount Burnham to be president of this conference.

(6.) *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.*

17. This question was brought before the Council by the Roumanian delegate in pursuance of the right enjoyed by all members of the League under article 11 of the Covenant to bring to the notice of the Council any circumstance affecting international relations which threatens to disturb international peace or the good understanding between nations upon which peace depends. He desired to explain why his Government had withdrawn their judge on the Hungaro-Roumanian Mixed Arbitral Tribunal from further participation in the hearing of claims by Hungarian nationals arising out of the scheme of agrarian reform initiated by Roumania before the war and extended after the cessation of hostilities to the new territory acquired by her under the Treaty of Peace.

18. Full statements of their case were made before the Council by the delegates of Roumania (M. Titulesco) and of Hungary (M. Gajzago). At the conclusion of his statement the Hungarian delegate appealed to the Council to appoint, under the provision of the Treaty of Trianon, two substitute arbitrators, of whom Hungary might appoint one, to take the place of the Roumanian delegate in order to enable the tribunal to proceed with its work.

19. The president proposed that one of the members of the Council should be appointed to study this question and prepare a report to the Council, and invited Sir Austen Chamberlain to undertake this duty. Sir Austen Chamberlain accepted and, at his suggestion, the Council asked the Chilean and Japanese delegates to assist him in the preparation of the report. In order to allow time for a thorough examination of the points at issue, the matter was adjourned till a later session of the Council.

III.—ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS.

(1.) *Danzig: Payment by the League of the Expenses connected with the Post of High Commissioner.*

20. At its Forty-third Session in December 1926, the Council had considered a proposal by the High Commissioner to the effect that the expenses in connection with his post should be paid by the League and not, as hitherto, in equal shares by the Governments

of Danzig and Poland. The Council had decided to request the Supervisory Commission to prepare a report on the principles which had been followed up to the present with regard to the salaries and expenses of permanent commissioners appointed by the Council.

21. The Council considered a report by the Supervisory Commission to the effect (1) that the Assembly had on several occasions laid down the principle that expenses incurred on behalf of a limited number of States should be charged to those States, and (2) that the expenses of all League of Nations commissioners appointed for a fixed period were charged to the States concerned. The Supervisory Commission found that the difference between the High Commissioner's post at Danzig and the duties of most other League commissioners did not appear sufficient to justify an exception to the general principle and that it was not desirable to modify the system hitherto applied to the High Commissioner at Danzig. This recommendation was endorsed by the Council.

(2.) *Danzig: Financial Situation.*

22. At its session in December 1926 the Council approved the issue of a loan by the Free City, under the auspices of the League of Nations, subject to the proviso that the Financial Committee should satisfy itself that certain arrangements had been made and certain conditions fulfilled. At the opening of the Financial Committee's session in March several of these arrangements had not yet been concluded and certain of the conditions had not been fulfilled. In particular, the Customs Agreement of the 20th September, 1926, between Poland and Danzig had not been finally approved and no satisfactory agreement had been concluded for the introduction of a tobacco monopoly. The Financial Committee was successful in bringing about an agreement between the parties concerned on most of the outstanding points and authorised its chairman to decide whether the remaining conditions had been fulfilled.

23. The Financial Committee was informed that the Harbour Board of Danzig was negotiating for the issue of a separate loan of 20 million gulden, part of which was to be devoted to harbour extension work. The committee approved the issue of this loan, provided it took place after that of the Free City loan. Finally, the committee approved the use of the proceeds of the Free City loan, according to a programme of expenditure submitted by the Danzig Senate.

24. The Council approved the conclusions of the report of the Financial Committee and expressed the hope that the formalities still to be carried out would be completed in the near future.

25. The delegates of Poland and the Free City and the High Commissioner congratulated the Financial Committee on the remarkable results obtained in its handling of this question.

(3.) *Danzig: Storage and Transport of War Material.*

26. The Council considered a letter from the High Commissioner asking for an interpretation of a previous resolution of

the Council of the 23rd June, 1921, concerning the transport and temporary storage of war material consigned to a country other than Poland, the transport of consignments to the latter country having in a general manner already been authorised by the Council. The High Commissioner explained that his predecessor had been accustomed, acting as the Council's representative, to judge of the expediency of granting applications from commercial firms for permission to convey war material through the territory of the Free City, and asked whether this procedure was in conformity with the Council's intentions. The Council decided to obtain an opinion on the question raised by the High Commissioner from the Permanent Advisory Commission for military, naval and air questions and to authorise the High Commissioner provisionally to issue, on its behalf, the requisite permits in accordance with its earlier resolution.

(4.) *Saar Basin: Freedom of Transport and Transit over the Railways.*

27. The Governing Commission had, at the request of the Council, forwarded a further report on this subject. In this report, which was adopted by four out of the five members of the commission, the member for the Saar abstaining, proposals were made for the maintenance of a Railway Committee, to superintend the transport of troops and military material over the Saar railways, and for the formation of a Railways Defence Force of 800 officers and men. The Railway Committee was to be at the disposal of the Governing Commission and was to have under its orders in case of emergency, in addition to the defence force, two battalions stationed just outside the southern boundary of the territory. As soon as the defence force came into being, the French garrison was to be withdrawn.

28. Mr. Stephens, chairman of the Governing Commission, reminded the Council that this question had been considered by the commission and the Council on three separate occasions and urged the adoption of the new proposals, which represented a fair solution.

29. He was supported by the French delegate (M. Briand).

30. The German delegate (Herr Stresemann) claimed that a date for the withdrawal of the garrison should be fixed, and that the proposed defence force should be used only in an emergency and for the protection of the railways; he also urged that it should be international and its size limited to a few hundred men.

31. The British delegate pointed out the financial and other difficulties involved in the proposal to create an international force and, in reply to an enquiry from the Italian delegate, Mr. Stephens stated that the Governing Commission could not take the responsibility of recommending a force of less than 800 men without further consideration. Finally, on receiving an assurance that the French garrison would be withdrawn within three months, that the defence force should only be used in exceptional circumstances and that its strength might be reduced at the discretion of

the Governing Commission, Herr Stresemann agreed not to insist on the two remaining points, and the proposals of the Governing Commission were adopted by the Council.

(5.) *Saar Basin: Appointment of the Five Members of the Governing Commission.*

32. Mr. Stephens having informed the Council that he did not wish to be re-elected to the Governing Commission, the Council delegated to its president the power of appointing a new member in his place, who should also be the chairman if, after consultation with the other members of the Council, the choice was unanimously approved. Mr. Stephens agreed in the meanwhile to remain at his post. The remaining members of the commission were re-elected for the period of one year.

IV.—MANDATES.

(1.) *Work of the Permanent Mandates Commission during its 10th Session.*

(a.) *Reports on Six Mandated Territories.*

33. The commission had for the first time examined reports on the administration of Iraq in the presence of the British High Commissioner, Sir H. Dobbs, with whose statements it expressed itself as very favourably impressed. It had also examined reports on mandated territories in Syria and the Lebanon, Togoland, Cameroons, Western Samoa and on the islands under Japanese mandate. The Council instructed the Secretary-General to forward the observations of the commission on each of these territories to the mandatory Power concerned.

(b.) *General Questions.*

34. The Council instructed the Secretary-General to forward to the mandatory Powers the recommendations of the commission as to the interpretation of certain terms concerning the liquor traffic which are found in the "B" and "C" Mandates and in the Convention relating to Liquor Traffic in Africa.

35. The commission and the Council congratulated the Government of the Union of South Africa and the Government of Portugal on the conclusion of an agreement regarding the boundary between the mandated territory of South-West Africa and Angola. The attention of the Government of the Union of South Africa was called to the observations of the commission on the use of the expression "possesses sovereignty" in the preamble to this agreement.

36. The attention of the mandatory authorities of Syria and Transjordan was called to the hope expressed by the commission that an understanding would be reached between them for the supervision of their common frontier.

(2.) *Procedure in replying to Petitions concerning Mandated Territories.*

37. The Council had before it the views of the mandatory Powers on the suggestion that in certain cases petitioners should be allowed a hearing before the commission. The mandatory Powers were without exception opposed to this suggestion. In their replies they pointed out that with such a procedure the parties would, in fact, be engaged in a controversy before the commission; they urged that any procedure which would seem to transform the commission into a court of law would be inconsistent with the very nature of the mandatory system, would weaken the authority of the mandatory, and might lend itself to intrigues on the part of ill-disposed persons. They also pointed out that even in countries endowed with the most liberal Constitutions, petitioners were not, as a rule, entitled to a hearing by the competent authorities.

38. The Council, recognising the justice of many of the objections urged by the mandatory Powers, decided that there was no occasion to modify the procedure which had hitherto been followed.

V.—ARMAMENTS.

(1.) *Private Manufacture of Arms.*

39. The Council decided to invite the Special Commission appointed at its previous session, and which had not yet met, to examine the question of the date at which an international conference might be summoned in the autumn of 1927; it also requested the commission to make known its proposals to the president of the Council, whom it authorised to make an announcement on the subject, if considered advisable, before the next session of the Council.

(2.) *Collection of Information regarding the Economic and Financial Relations of the various States with a view to a possible application of Article 16 of the Covenant.*

40. The Secretary-General informed the Council that his report would not be ready until after the June session. The Council accordingly decided to postpone consideration of this question till September, and authorised the Secretary-General to forward his report as soon as it was ready to all States members of the League, in order that it might be at their disposal for the next Assembly.

(3.) *Scheme of Financial Assistance for States Victims of Aggression.*

41. The Council took note of the desire of its Financial Committee to devote further time to the study of this question before expressing its opinion as to the financial scheme which would be best calculated to achieve the desired object.

(4.) *Questions relating to the Rapid Working of the Organs of the League in Emergencies.*

42. The Council decided to include in the agenda of the next Assembly the proposal of the committee of the Council that the Assembly should be invited to adopt a general resolution affirming the principle of the obligation of Governments members of the League to facilitate the meeting of the Council in emergencies by every means in their power.

VI.—TECHNICAL ORGANISATIONS.

(1.) *Work of the Economic Committee during its Twenty-first Session.*

43. The committee had recommended that a date should be provisionally fixed for the proposed conference on the abolition of import and export prohibitions and restrictions without waiting until the International Economic Conference had assembled. The Council agreed to this suggestion and decided to convene, on the 14th November, 1927, a conference of Governments Members and non-Members of the League, with a view to framing a convention on this subject.

44. The *rapporteur* (Herr Stresemann) informed the Council that no less than twenty-five States had now ratified or acceded to the Convention for the Simplification of Customs Formalities. It also appeared that the application of the provisions of the convention had already produced beneficial results.

45. The Council also approved in principle the committee's proposal to convene a conference of official statisticians in 1928 with a view to the adoption of uniform methods for the establishment of economic statistics.

(2.) *Work of the Financial Committee during its Twenty-sixth Session.*

46. The parts of this committee's report relating to the balance of the Hungarian loan, the Greek Refugees' Settlement Commission, the financial situation of the Free City of Danzig, the settlement of Bulgarian refugees and banking and currency reform in Estonia are dealt with in other sections of this summary. The remaining questions dealt with in the committee's report do not call for special comment.

(3.) *Work of the Health Committee during its Ninth Session.*

47. The committee submitted for the approval of the Council the names of four public health experts to act as assessors with rights of full members of the committee, and of three other experts to act in an advisory capacity, one of them being a woman member in accordance with the suggestion made by the British delegate at the previous session of the Council.

48. The committee decided to maintain its commissions on malaria and permanent standards, and to continue its expert commissions on infant mortality, sleeping sickness and vital statistics. It also recommended the appointment of an expert commission to consider the relations between public health services and health insurance organisations.

49. The committee noted with appreciation the action of the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation in prolonging the agreements for the Epidemiological Intelligence Service for a further period of seven years. It reported that an agreement was being negotiated with the International Office of Public Health, in accordance with the provisions of the International Sanitary Convention, 1926, for the utilisation by the International Office of the League's Epidemiological Intelligence Service.

50. As an example of the spread of the Health Organisation's activities in Asia, the committee drew special attention to the fact that the Governments of Germany and India were making arrangements for holding collective interchanges of public health personnel, which had proved very useful in other countries. The Health Organisation had also developed its work in Latin America, as was shown by the proposal to hold a conference on infant mortality in June in Montevideo, which would be attended by the President of the Health Committee and the Director of the Health Section.

51. The Council approved the recommendations of the Health Committee, together with the proposals contained in the report of the Japanese delegate.

(4.) Convening of the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit.

52. The Council decided to convene the conference at Geneva on the 23rd August, 1927. It approved the following provisional agenda, the preparation of which had been completed by the Advisory and Technical Committee :—

- “(1.) Report of the Advisory and Technical Committee on the work done since the last conference.
- (2.) Report of the Secretary-General of the League on the action taken to give effect to the decisions of previous conferences.
- (3.) Systematic collection and distribution of general information concerning communications and transit. Action to be taken on the resolution adopted on this matter by the Advisory and Technical Committee on the 5th March, 1927.
- (4.) Revision of the Rules for Organisation and of the Rules of Procedure adopted at the Barcelona Conference.
- (5.) Renewal of the membership of the Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit.”

In accordance with a recommendation made by the Conference on the International Régime of Passports, held in 1926, the Council

decided to add to the agenda the question of identity documents for persons without nationality.

VII.—SOCIAL QUESTIONS.

(1.) *Settlement of Bulgarian Refugees.*

53. In his second report the Commissioner, M. Charron, showed that in spite of innumerable difficulties a general plan of settlement had been drawn up, including a census of families in need of relief. The definition of the relief to be granted to each family, the amount of land available and an approximate estimate of the cost of settlement. Under the plan, which would now be put into execution without delay, more than 81,000 families were to be assisted, at a total estimated expenditure of about £1,817,000. One of the principal difficulties in carrying out any settlement of refugees in the past lay in the disputes regarding the land which had been earmarked for this purpose. The Commissioner laid stress on the need for co-operation from the local authorities in this matter, without which no success could be looked for.

54. The Council took note of this report and adopted the report of the Financial Committee.

(2.) *Settlement of Greek Refugees.*

55. The Financial Committee considered the thirteenth report of the Settlement Commission; it also heard statements by representatives of the Greek Government in regard to the general budgetary and financial position of Greece. In view of the provisions of article 6 of the Protocol of 1923 respecting Greek public expenditure and of the statement of the Settlement Commission that the work of establishing refugees could not be satisfactorily completed without an additional loan, the Financial Committee requested the Secretariat to collect as complete information as possible, before the next meeting of the Council in June, on the general financial position of Greece. It stipulated that without full information of this kind it would not be able to pronounce on any future application for an additional loan by the Greek Government.

56. The Council approved the report of the Financial Committee.

(3.) *Production of Opium in Persia: Report of the Commission of Enquiry.*

57. The Sixth (1925) Assembly of the League of Nations recommended that a special commission should be sent, with the consent of the Persian Government, to Persia to study (a) the existing situation with regard to the cultivation of the opium poppy and (b) the replacement of a proportion of this cultivation by other crops. This commission proceeded to Persia in 1926 and drew up a report, which was submitted to the Council at the present session; owing to the fact, however, that it was impossible to circulate the

report of the commission and the observations of the Persian Government on the report before the session, the Council felt that more time was required for the examination of this important question.

58. In the meantime the Council invited the Persian delegate to make a statement on the policy of his Government with regard to the production of opium. The Persian delegate stated that, in the absence of full information as to the time required for and the cost of substitute crops, and without an assurance that it would be possible to finance and to give tariff protection to substitute industries, his Government could not at the moment accept an unlimited programme of reduction. In spite, however, of the fact that the Persian cultivators of opium were not concerned with the manufacture of narcotics, his Government were willing to co-operate in the general endeavour to secure control over them. The programme to be submitted to the Legislature provided for the acceptance of the recommendations of the commission of enquiry, subject to the proviso that when the plan had been in operation for three years the position should be reviewed, account being taken of the welfare of the cultivator, the budget, the trade balance and the economic situation of the country, as well as of the action taken by other producing and manufacturing countries to curtail the production and manufacture of opium. In order to carry out this programme, Persia must be given complete liberty of action in fiscal matters.

59. The Council thanked the members of the commission for the work they had carried out and the Persian Government for the goodwill they had shown, and decided to place the question on the agenda of the next ordinary session of the Assembly.

(4.) Opium: Work of the Advisory Committee during its Ninth Session.

60. The main question which engaged the attention of the Advisory Committee was the almost complete lack of information as to the sources from which the drugs are at present obtained by the illicit traffickers. The committee strongly urged that a systematic and searching enquiry should be undertaken without delay by the Governments of all the countries which manufacture or import drugs on a large scale with a view to discovering the sources of supply. It further recommended that steps should be taken to obtain from the Governments concerned full information as to the exact situation of the traffic in dangerous drugs in Central and South America, and as to the system of control applied in free ports and free zones.

61. The Council instructed the Secretary-General to take the action proposed by the committee in its report.

62. The Italian member of the Advisory Committee had proposed that an extraordinary session of the committee should be held later in the present year to study the question of the over-production of the drugs and its relation to the illicit traffic. No recommendation was made on this matter to the Council, which decided to

authorise the chairman of the Advisory Committee to summon an extraordinary session not later than immediately after the next ordinary meeting of the Assembly, should the circumstances, in his opinion, warrant such action.

(5.) *Report of the Special Committee of Experts on the Extent of the International Traffic in Women and Children.*

63. In 1923 the Council appointed a special body of experts to study this question with the consent and collaboration of the countries concerned. The experts now presented their report in two parts. In the first part a concise account was given of the facts disclosed by the enquiry, and a statement of the conclusions based upon them. The second part contained a more detailed statement of the evidence derived from various sources and arranged according to countries. The cost of the enquiry was borne by the American Bureau of Social Hygiene.

64. In his report to the Council, on this question, the British delegate proposed that the Council should authorise the immediate publication of Part I, and that the various Governments should in the first instance be given an opportunity of making such observations on Part II as they might desire. He also recommended that both parts of the report should be referred to the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Women and Children—Part I, in order that they might consider what action they could recommend, and Part II for information until the observations of the various Governments had been received by the Council.

65. Dr. Snow, chairman of the Committee of Experts, explained that the committee had prepared its report as soon as sufficient information was available on which to make an authoritative statement without waiting to extend its enquiry to other countries. The references to individual countries were for purposes of illustration only, and the committee was convinced that the facts reported were true also of the traffic as it related to countries which had not been visited. While the hope had been expressed in many quarters that the Council would continue the enquiry in some manner, Dr. Snow felt that the information already gained would be useful independently of further enquiry. He placed the services of the members of the committee and of the director of investigations, Mr. Bascom Johnson, at the disposal of the Council if further explanations or information were desired.

66. The report of the British delegate was adopted by the Council, together with his proposal that a letter of thanks should be addressed to the members of the Committee of Experts.

AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN.

London, June 1, 1927.