

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Official Journal

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT No. 166

RECORDS

OF THE

SPECIAL SESSION

OF THE

ASSEMBLY

convened for the purpose of considering the Request of the Kingdom
of Egypt for Admission to the League of Nations
(May 26th - 27th, 1937).

AGENDA.

- I. Admission of the Kingdom of Egypt to the League of Nations.
- II. Permanent Court of International Justice: Election of a Judge to
the Vacancy created by the Death of Baron Rolin-Jaequemyns.

GENEVA, 1937.

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-

GENEVA, 1937.

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CONVOCATION
OF THE
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY

By a telegram, dated March 24th, 1937,¹ the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, acting on behalf of His Excellency Dr. Antonio J. Quevedo, President of the Council, in conformity with Rule 3, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, summoned the Assembly to meet in special session, in accordance with Rule 1, paragraph 3, of the Rules of Procedure, on Wednesday, May 26th, 1937, at 11 a.m.

¹ See Annex III, Communication No. 3, page 45.

**AGENDA
OF THE
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY**

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY ON MAY 26TH, 1937.

1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS, APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA.

- (a) Election and report of the Credentials Committee.¹
- (b) Election and report of the Nominations Committee.¹
- (c) Election of the President of the Assembly.
- (d) Adoption of the Agenda of the Session.
- (e) Election of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly.

**C.L.49.1937.
C.187.M.133.
1937.** **2. REQUEST OF EGYPT FOR ADMISSION TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.**

By a letter dated March 4th, 1937, and a further letter dated March 16th, the Government of Egypt applied for admission to membership of the League of Nations under Article 1, paragraph 2, of the Covenant. After the Members of the League had been consulted, a special session of the Assembly was convened for May 26th, 1937, to consider the request of the Government of Egypt.

**C.501.M.314.
1936.V.** **3. PERMANENT COURT OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE : ELECTION TO A VACANCY.**

By its resolution of September 25th, 1936 (ninety-third session), relating to the election to fill the vacancy created by the death of Baron Rolin-Jaequemyns, Judge at the Permanent Court of International Justice, the Council reserved the right to include the election among the items to be added to the agenda of any meeting of the Assembly that might be held before the ordinary session of 1937, at which the election could take place.

Certain Members of the League having suggested that a special session of the Assembly should be held to give effect to Egypt's request for admission to the League of Nations, the Secretary-General consulted the Members of the Council as to whether they approved the placing of this item upon the agenda of the special session. The Members of the Council expressed their approval.

¹ See Annex, page 7.

Annex.

The provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly with regard to the credentials of the representatives of the Members of the League of Nations, together with the provisions amended or introduced into the Regulations by the Assembly in 1936, will be found below.

Rule 5.

1. Each Member shall communicate to the Secretary-General, if possible one week before the date fixed for the opening of the session, the names of its representatives, of whom there shall be not more than three. The names of substitute representatives may be added.

2. The full powers of the representatives shall be delivered to the Secretary-General, if possible, one week before the date fixed for the opening of the session. They shall be issued either by the Head of the State or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.¹

3. A Committee of nine members for the examination of the full powers shall be elected by the Assembly on the proposal of the President. The Committee shall appoint its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman. It shall report without delay.

4. Any representative to whose admission objection has been made shall sit provisionally with the same rights as other representatives, unless the Assembly decides otherwise.

Rule 7.²

1. The General Committee of the Assembly shall consist of the President of the Assembly, eight Vice-Presidents and the Chairmen of the main Committees of the Assembly, the Agenda Committee and the Committee for the examination of the full powers.

The Assembly may decide to add to the General Committee the Chairmen of other Assembly Committees and, in exceptional cases, other members.

.....

Rule 7 (a).

1. An Agenda Committee shall be set up at the beginning of each session. It shall consist of seven members, who shall be appointed by the Assembly on the nomination of the President.

2. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

3. The Committee shall consider applications for the inclusion of new questions in the agenda of the Assembly, and shall report to the Assembly thereon.

4. Proposals for the mere reference to one of the main Committees of portions of the Report of the Work of the League shall be decided upon by the Assembly without previous reference to the Agenda Committee.

Rule 7 (b).³

1. At the commencement of each session, the Assembly shall appoint a committee of eleven members whose duty shall be to nominate candidates for functions which carry with them a seat on the General Committee.

2. The provisional President of the Assembly shall submit proposals to it regarding the composition of this Committee.

3. The Members of the Assembly and the Committees shall retain the right to vote for persons other than those proposed by the above-mentioned Committee.

¹ It is obvious that, in the case of countries which do not possess a Minister for Foreign Affairs, the full powers may be issued by an authority possessing similar or equivalent powers.

² On September 30th, 1933, the Assembly approved the following recommendation, which was made to it by the General Committee :

“ When proceeding to the election of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, in application of Rule 7, paragraphs 1 and 4, of the Rules of Procedure, the voting-papers should not bear the names of individuals, but should be marked ‘ The First Delegate ’ of such-and-such a country.”

³ On October 10th, 1936, the Assembly adopted as an experiment the procedure laid down in this rule, which, unless otherwise decided in the interval, is to have effect down to the termination of the ordinary session of 1939.

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M. DE CAIX.

Capitaine de vaisseau DELEUZE.

M. CHAUVEL.

Conseiller d'Ambassade — Counsellor of Embassy.

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Chef d'escadron DE VILLELUME.

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M. SPITZMULLER.

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M. ROUX.

Secrétaire d'Ambassade — Secretary of Embassy.

M. BRINCARD.

Consul.

M. JALENQUES.

Vice-consul.

M. CLERMONT.

Attaché.

GRÈCE — GREECE

Son Excellence M. Nicolas POLITIS.

Envoyé extraordinaire et Ministre plénipotentiaire à Paris, Ancien Ministre des Affaires étrangères — Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Paris, former Minister for Foreign Affairs.

GRÈCE (suite) — GREECE (continued)

Son Excellence M. S. POLYCHRONIADIS.

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Délégué adjoint — Assistant Delegate :

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Premier Secrétaire de Légation — First Secretary of Legation.

Secrétaire — Secretary :

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Secrétaire de la Délégation permanente près la Société des Nations — Secretary of the Permanent Delegation to the League of Nations.

HAÏTI

Son Excellence M. Y. CHATELAIN.

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Son Excellence M. A. F. FRANGULIS.

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HONGRIE — HUNGARY

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INDE — INDIA

His Highness the Right Honourable the AGA Khan, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O.

Sir Denys BRAY, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., C.B.E.

Secrétaire — Secretary :

Mr. W. D. TOMKINS (India Office).

IRAK — IRAQ

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Attaché de Légation — Attaché of Legation.

ÉTAT LIBRE D'IRLANDE
IRISH FREE STATE

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Délégué permanent près la Société des Nations — Permanent Delegate to the League of Nations.

LETTONIE — LATVIA

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Son Excellence M. Jules FELDMANS.

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LITHUANIE — LITHUANIA

Son Excellence M. Juozas URBŠYS.

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LUXEMBOURG — LUXEMBURG

Son Excellence M. Joseph BECH.

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— Minister of State, Prime Minister.

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Premier Secrétaire du Service extérieur
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manente près la Société des Nations —
First Secretary of the Mexican External
Service, Secretary of the Permanent Delega-
tion to the League of Nations.

NORVÈGE — NORWAY

Le docteur Halvdan KOHT.

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for Foreign Affairs.

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Storting.

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NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE
NEW ZEALAND

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PAYS-BAS — NETHERLANDS

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Higher Commercial Studies at Rotterdam.

Secrétaire — Secretary :

Le Jonkheer O. REUHLIN.

Secrétaire de Légation de première classe —
Secretary of Legation (first class).

PÉROU — PERU

Son Excellence le docteur Raul PORRAS.

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PÉROU (*suite*) — PERU (*continued*)

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Son Excellence le professeur D^r José CAEIRO DA MATTA.

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PORTUGAL (*suite*) — (*continued*)

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M. Jorge BAHIA.

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ROUMANIE — ROUMANIA

Son Excellence M. Victor ANTONESCO.

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Son Excellence M. V. V. PELLA.

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Son Excellence M. Alexandre CRETZEANO.

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M. J. IGIOSIANO.

Secrétaire de la Légation à Genève — Secretary at the Legation in Geneva.

M. N. IOANID.

Chef de Cabinet du Ministre des Affaires étrangères — "Chef de Cabinet" to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

SIAM

Son Excellence Phya RAJAWANGSAN.

Envoyé extraordinaire et Ministre plénipotentiaire à Londres, Représentant permanent près la Société des Nations — Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in London, Permanent Representative to the League of Nations.

Suppléant — Substitute :

Luang BHADRAVADI.

Secrétaire de Légation à Londres — Secretary of Legation in London.

SUÈDE — SWEDEN

Son Excellence M. R. J. SANDLER.
Ministre des Affaires étrangères — Minister
for Foreign Affairs.

Le professeur B. Östen UNDÉN.
Ancien Ministre des Affaires étrangères,
Membre de la Première Chambre du Riksdag,
Professeur à l'Université d'Upsal — Former
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Member of the
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SUISSE — SWITZERLAND

Son Excellence M. Giuseppe MOTTA.
Président de la Confédération, Chef du
Département politique fédéral — President
of the Confederation, Head of the Federal
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TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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Ministre des Affaires étrangères — Minister
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Son Excellence M. Štefan OSUSKÝ.
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TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE (suite)
CZECHOSLOVAKIA (continued)

Suppléants — Substitutes :

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TURQUIE — TURKEY

Son Excellence M. Tevfik RÜSTÜ ARAS.
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Son Excellence M. NUMAN MENEMEN-
CIOGLU.
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Secrétaire de Légation — Secretary of
Legation.

M. Cemil VAFI.
Secrétaire de Légation — Secretary of
Legation.

M. Semsî MARDIN.
Secrétaire de Légation — Secretary of
Legation.

M. Celal ZİYAL.
Secrétaire de Légation — Secretary of
Legation.

UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES
SOVIÉTIQUES SOCIALISTES
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST
REPUBLICS

M. Maxime LITVINOFF.

Commissaire du Peuple aux Affaires étrangères — People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs.

Secrétaire général — Secretary General :

M. Edouard HOERSCHELMANN.

Secrétaire général du Commissariat du Peuple pour les Affaires étrangères — Secretary-General of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs.

Secrétaire — Secretary :

M. Alexandre SAVELIEFF.

Attaché.

Rédacteur :

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YUGOSLAVIE — YUGOSLAVIA

Son Excellence le docteur Milan STOYADINOVITCH¹.

Président du Conseil des Ministres et Ministre des Affaires étrangères — President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Son Excellence le docteur Bojidar POURITCH.

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Secrétaires — Secretaries :

M. Milenko MILITCH.

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M. Féodor KOBÉNITCH.

Attaché à la Délégation permanente près la Société des Nations — Attaché at the Permanent Delegation to the League of Nations.

Service de Presse — Press Service :

M. Bogdan RADITSA.

Attaché de Presse à la Délégation permanente près la Société des Nations — Press Attaché at the Permanent Delegation to the League of Nations.

¹ En l'absence de M. Stoyadinovitch, M. Pouritch est devenu chef de la délégation et premier délégué — In the absence of M. Stoyadinovitch, M. Pouritch acted as Head of the Delegation and First Delegate.

TEXT OF THE DEBATES

FIRST PLENARY MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, May 26th, 1937, at 11 a.m.

CONTENTS.

- OPENING OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY.
- OPENING SPEECH BY M. QUEVEDO, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.
- ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE TO REPORT ON THE CREDENTIALS OF THE DELEGATES.
- QUESTION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE.
- CREDENTIALS OF DELEGATES.
Report of the Committee on Credentials.
- ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY.
- PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.
- ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
- APPOINTMENT OF A GENERAL MAIN COMMITTEE.
- QUESTION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE ASSEMBLY.
- CONVOCATION OF THE GENERAL MAIN COMMITTEE.

President : M. QUEVEDO (Ecuador),
President of the Council ;
later, M. RÜSTÜ ARAS (Turkey).

OPENING OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY.

(M. Quevedo, delegate of Ecuador, President of the Council, took the chair.)

The Chairman :

Translation : Ladies and gentlemen, — In my capacity as President of the Council of the League of Nations, I have the honour to declare open the special session of the Assembly of the League of Nations.

OPENING SPEECH BY M. QUEVEDO, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.

The Chairman :

Translation : Ladies and Gentlemen, — I am fully conscious of the high honour which has fallen to me, as President of the Council of the League of Nations, of opening the proceedings of this special session of the Assembly, which has been convened to take cognisance of the request of a new State for admission to the League.

This duty is one that I am particularly happy to fulfil, because the country I represent on

the Council, invested as it is with the Presidency could feel no greater joy than in exercising those functions on the occasion of the admission of a new State to the League, and particularly a State such as Egypt, which is now asking to take its place among you.

The entry of a new State into the League is a striking sign of the League's vitality, of its readiness to remain always open to those who put their trust in it and fully subscribe to the charter by which it was established.

My country has always shown its attachment to the principle of the League's universality. To attain full self-expression, to become what the authors of the Covenant meant it to be, the League must move on towards universality, and its aim must be to call the States of all continents into this community.

The State that is knocking at our door to-day represents the world at once in its remote antiquity and in all its youth. It harmonises these contrasts in itself, to form a whole that has an almost symbolic value for us all. Egypt comes to us bearing incomparable glory as the chosen land of so many civilisations and as having preserved on her soil so much superb evidence of that quality which has contributed something to every art and to every culture.

Yet with this patrimony and its age-long history, Egypt comes to us in all the pride of youth, as a State that has steadily won a place for itself in the international community and by its own merit alone has thus acquired its independence. This maturity has just been affirmed once again at a recent Conference, the success of which has brought rejoicing to all the States Members of the League. They have realised the nobility and the high value of that independence, which honours alike those who give it and those who receive it.

For so many reasons, Egypt's request for admission to the League is invested with special significance; and indeed the Members of the League realised that, when, as soon as they were informed of Egypt's request, so many of them spontaneously expressed their joy and declared themselves in advance in favour of admission.

But it is for the Assembly alone to consider Egypt's request for admission to the League and to render a sovereign decision in accordance with its own rules. My rôle as provisional President will come to an end in a few moments.

If, in opening your session, I have expressed my personal sentiments on the subject that has been referred to you, it is because, as the representative of a member of the Council and also of an American State, I felt I could not refrain from according to the admission of a new State to the League the welcome due to what is always a great political event, and especially so when that State is Egypt.

Before handing over the office of President to my successor whom you are to elect, may I express the hope that this Assembly, which has met in circumstances still fraught with so many uncertainties, will yet constitute an important landmark in the life of the League?

ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE TO REPORT ON THE CREDENTIALS OF THE DELEGATES.

The Chairman :

Translation : The first item on the agenda is the election of the Committee to report on the credentials of the delegates.

According to Rule 5, paragraph 3, of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, and in view of the precedents, I have the honour to submit to the Assembly a list consisting of nine names, as follows :

His Excellency M. Abdollah BAHRAMY (Iran);
M. BASDEVANT (France);
His Excellency M. Alberto GUANI (Uruguay);
M. Paul HJELT (Finland);
Mr. W. J. JORDAN (New Zealand);
M. Michel MELAS (Greece);
His Excellency M. Nicolas MOMTCHILOFF (Bulgaria);
His Excellency M. Raul PORRAS (Peru);
M. Albert WEHRER (Luxemburg).

If there is no objection to the list I have just submitted, I think I may conclude that the Assembly decides that the Committee on Credentials shall consist of the delegates whose names I have just read.

The list proposed by the Chairman was adopted.

The Chairman :

Translation : The Committee on Credentials having been constituted, I will ask it to meet, as soon as the meeting of the Assembly is adjourned, in the room placed at its disposal in this building.

QUESTION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE.

The Chairman :

Translation : The next item on the agenda is the appointment of a Nominations Committee, in accordance with the new provisions of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure. I understand, however, that the delegation of Norway has a proposal to make on this subject.

M. Hambro, delegate of Norway, will therefore address the Assembly.

M. Hambro (Norway) :

Translation : When the Norwegian delegation proposed that a Nominations Committee should be set up, it definitely stated that this procedure should be adopted at ordinary sessions of the Assembly and not at special sessions. My delegation attaches very great importance to this Committee, which can perform very useful work. It considers, however, that such an organisation is too complicated for the purposes

of the present Assembly. I therefore propose that we should await the forthcoming ordinary session of the Assembly before appointing the Nominations Committee.

The Chairman :

Translation : The Assembly has heard the proposal of M. Hambro, delegate of Norway, to the effect that, in view of the exceptional nature of the present special session of the Assembly, the new provision of the Rules of Procedure concerning the appointment of a Nominations Committee should not be applied.

From observations which have been made to me to the same effect, moreover, I infer that M. Hambro's view is shared by a large number of delegations.

If no delegation asks to speak in opposition to the Norwegian delegation's proposal and if there are no further observations, I shall interpret the Assembly's silence as signifying assent, and I shall accordingly conclude that the Assembly decides not to appoint a Nominations Committee at the present session.

The Norwegian delegation's proposal was adopted.

(The Assembly adjourned from 11.30 a.m. to 12.35 p.m.)

CREDENTIALS OF DELEGATES : REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

The Chairman :

Translation : The next item on the agenda is the report of the Committee on Credentials.

I call upon the Chairman of the Committee, M. Guani, delegate of Uruguay, to come to the platform.

(M. Guani took his place on the platform.)

The Chairman :

Translation : I call upon M. Guani, Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee, to read his report.

M. Guani (Uruguay), Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee on Credentials :

Translation : The Committee which has just been appointed by the Assembly to report on the credentials of the delegates met to-day, May 26th, 1937, in Room L of the Committee Building.

It elected me as Chairman and did me the additional honour of appointing me Rapporteur. It also appointed Mr. Jordan Vice-Chairman.

The Committee examined the documents, emanating from fifty Members, which were communicated to it by the Secretary-General.

It found that the full powers conferred upon forty-five delegations fully satisfied the requirements of Rule 5, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

Some were conferred by the Head of the State or by an authority having similar powers. This applies to the following twenty-eight countries :

Afghanistan, Argentine Republic, Austria, Bolivia, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Haiti, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Siam, Sweden, Switzerland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The other regular powers were conferred in documents emanating from the Minister for Foreign Affairs or an authority having similar or equivalent powers. This applies to the following seventeen countries :

Union of South Africa, Albania, Australia, Belgium, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Irish Free State, New Zealand, Roumania, Spain, Turkey, Uruguay, Yugoslavia.

The Committee is of opinion that the delegates of the above forty-five States are duly accredited to take part in the work of the present special session of the Assembly.

The following Members nominated their delegates without having presented full powers in good and due form :

Chile, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Venezuela,

and have nominated their delegates by means of a telegram from the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Committee is of opinion that the powers mentioned in the last category do not satisfy, or only partially satisfy, the conditions laid down in Rule 5, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

It proposes that the delegations of these States Members be authorised to take their seats, subject to full powers being sent by their respective Heads of States or Ministers for Foreign Affairs, or by an authority having similar or equivalent powers.

The Chairman :

Translation : I beg to thank the Rapporteur of the Committee on Credentials for his report.

Does any delegation wish to speak on the conclusions of this report ?

M. Komarnicki (Poland) :

Translation : For reasons of which it is sole judge, the Committee on Credentials has not thought fit to deal with the question which was left in suspense in the report of the Committee on Credentials at the last session of the Assembly.

It may be thought that this question should not be mentioned at the moment, although the *de facto* situation no longer admits of the same doubts as still existed in September last. I desire, however, to point out that my Government — which has no interest, direct or indirect, in the part of the world in question, but is concerned solely with the future of international co-operation within the framework of the League of Nations, which must be founded on fact — regards this question as settled.

The Chairman :

Translation : The Assembly has heard M. Komarnicki's statement and, if there are no other observations, will take note of it.

M. Isidro Fabela (Mexico) :

Translation : I listened most carefully to the statement made by the delegate of Poland. If I understand aright, he makes no concrete proposal. As Mexico's silence might be misinterpreted, however, I should like to emphasise most clearly and peremptorily our opposition to any attempt to prepare for the exclusion of the representatives of a State Member of the League of Nations.

As this question is not on the agenda, I think I need not go more fully into the reasons by which my Government is actuated.

The Chairman :

Translation : The Assembly has heard the statement made by the delegate of Mexico. If there are no further observations, we shall continue our procedure, and I shall take the silence of the Assembly to mean that it approves the report of the Committee on Credentials as submitted.

The report was adopted.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Chairman :

Translation : The next item on the agenda is the election of the President of the present special session of the Assembly.

M. Politis has asked to speak on this subject.

M. Politis (Greece) :

Translation : Now that the President of the Assembly is to be elected, I feel I should make the following statement :

Some weeks ago I was asked whether I would agree, if necessary, to act as President of this special Assembly. I replied that, since its main object would be to admit Egypt, a country with which my own country has uninterruptedly maintained the happiest and most trustful relations for some thousands of years, I should regard it as my duty, should the occasion arise, to accept this office. I was careful to add, however, "provided no other member of the Assembly expresses a desire to preside over it".

I have just reached Geneva and I find that my reservation was both necessary and wise. A member of the Assembly, who is one of my greatest friends, would like to act as President. I refer to my friend M. Rüstü Aras. I would therefore ask any of my colleagues who intended to vote for me to refrain from doing so.

The Chairman :

Translation : In conformity with the Rules of Procedure, the voting will be by secret ballot by roll-call. I would remind you that voting-papers should be filled in with the name of a person, not a State.

May I call upon His Excellency M. Motta, first delegate of Switzerland, and His Excellency M. Sandler, first delegate of Sweden, as former Presidents of the Assembly, to be good enough to act as tellers ?

(The votes of the delegations were taken in turn by secret ballot.)

The Chairman :

Translation : In the first place, I wish to thank the tellers for their kind assistance.

The result of the voting is as follows :

Number of States voting.	50
Blank and spoilt voting-papers..	1
Valid voting-papers.	49
Absolute majority.	25

His Excellency M. Rüstü Aras, delegate of Turkey, has obtained forty-six votes; His Excellency M. Politis has obtained three votes.

I have the honour, therefore, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, to declare that His Excellency M. Rüstü Aras, first delegate of Turkey, is elected President of the Assembly.

By an almost unanimous vote, the Assembly has just elected as its President one who has had a distinguished political career, who is admired for his high qualities and his wide experience, and who has won the affection and sympathy of all by the unfailing kindness he has shown since he first came to the League.

In choosing him, the Assembly has paid a tribute, not only to the statesman and the good servant of the League, but also to the country he represents here. The Assembly has felt that Turkey had a special claim to occupy the Chair, in the person of its Minister for Foreign Affairs, for the purpose of conducting the business of a session which is about to admit to the League a State that has for many ages had affinities with Turkey. While testifying its high esteem for the man, the Assembly was also desirous of testifying once again its esteem for two countries — the country which occupies the Chair and the country we are about to receive into our midst.

I call upon M. Rüstü Aras to take the Chair as President of the Assembly.

(M. Rüstü Aras took the Presidential Chair.)

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

The President :

Translation : Permit me first to thank you most warmly for having been good enough to elect me to preside over your discussions on the occasion of this special session of the Assembly of the League of Nations. I am, in particular, most grateful to my eminent friend, M. Politis, for his great kindness, and I wish also to thank the President of the Council for the friendly references which he has been good enough to make towards myself and towards my country.

This election is a personal honour to me. In making it, however, you have wished to demonstrate the feelings of friendship entertained by your countries towards Turkey, which will deeply appreciate them. At the same time, you have had what I will describe as a gracious intention, since, on the occasion of the admission of Egypt into the League of Nations, the offer of the presidency to the delegate of a country attached to that great Mediterranean State by the most indissoluble and fraternal of bonds is a gesture the significance of which will unfailingly be realised by both the Egyptian and the Turkish peoples.

I therefore thank you with all my heart for having granted me the great happiness of being able shortly to announce from this chair the admission of our friend Egypt into the bosom of our great family.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.

The President :

Translation : The first matter on which I must ask the Assembly to decide is the adoption of the agenda of the present special session. Two items appear on the agenda: first, the admission of Egypt to membership of the League of Nations; secondly, the election of a judge of the Permanent Court of International Justice in succession to the late Baron Rolin-Jaequemyns. I propose that the Assembly adopt the agenda without further formality.

The agenda was adopted.

APPOINTMENT OF A GENERAL MAIN COMMITTEE.

The President :

Translation : I have now to submit to the Assembly proposals concerning the procedure to be adopted for the questions to be dealt with at the present session.

As regards the first question — that of Egypt's claim for admission to membership of the League of Nations — I have the honour to propose that the Assembly should adopt a simplified procedure, adapted to the circumstances, by establishing only one committee, within the meaning of Rule 14 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure.

If no observation is made, I shall interpret the silence of the Assembly as signifying its agreement, and I shall therefore note that the Assembly has decided to appoint a committee as I have indicated, of which committee I shall be Chairman.

The President's proposal was adopted.

QUESTION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The President :

Translation : When the Assembly, in approving a short while ago the proposal submitted to it by the delegate of Norway, to the effect that no Nominations Committee should be appointed on account of the special nature of the present session, it implicitly agreed that there would be no occasion to appoint a General Committee within the meaning of the Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure.

If, therefore, I have correctly interpreted the intentions of the Assembly on this subject, I shall take it that the Assembly has decided not to elect any Vice-President and, consequently, not to appoint a General Committee for the present session.

If there are no observations, I shall interpret the silence of the Assembly as signifying approval.

The Assembly decided not to constitute a General Committee.

CONVOCAION OF THE GENERAL MAIN COMMITTEE.

The President :

Translation : I propose to the Assembly that the Committee to examine Egypt's application for admission to membership of the League of Nations should be convened in this hall at 3.30 this afternoon. The Egyptian delegation will be duly notified through the Secretary-General.

The President's suggestion was approved.

MEETING OF THE GENERAL MAIN COMMITTEE

Held on Wednesday, May 26th, 1937, at 3.30 p.m.

Chairman : M. RÜSTÜ ARAS.

**REQUEST OF THE KINGDOM OF EGYPT
FOR ADMISSION TO THE LEAGUE OF
NATIONS : GENERAL DISCUSSION.**

The Chairman drew the attention of the members of the Committee to document A.(Extr.).2.1937, reproducing two letters dated March 4th and 16th, 1937,¹ sent by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt to the Secretary-General. Those letters contained the request of Egypt for admission to the League, and the Egyptian Government's promise to observe its international obligations, to accept such regulations as might be prescribed by the League in regard to its armaments, and in general to comply with the conditions contained in Article 1 of the Covenant.

In February and March, numerous Governments had made friendly representations at Cairo signifying to the Egyptian Government their desire that Egypt should, as soon as possible, become a Member of the League of Nations. At the same time, those Governments had informed the Secretary-General of the step they had taken. In February and March, the Secretary-General had circulated twenty-four notes from States Members on this subject.² He had subsequently received communications from nine other Members, informing him either that the Egyptian Government had been approached or that that Government's decision to submit a request for admission was favourably regarded.

Thirty-three Governments had therefore notified the Secretary-General either that they had invited Egypt to enter the League or that they supported the request for admission.

In those circumstances, it was in fact doubtful whether it was necessary to refer Egypt's request for admission to a sub-committee for a detailed examination. Egypt's admission was desired by all, and every country knew that she was worthy to be admitted. Would it not therefore be possible to abridge the procedure, as had already been done in 1934 at the time of the admission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ?

The Committee would remember that, at that time, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics having also been invited to enter the League by over thirty States and having given a favourable reply to that invitation, the Sixth Committee of the Assembly³ had decided to settle the matter on the spot without reference to a sub-committee.

The Chairman therefore proposed that, unless any delegation suggested the constitution of a sub-committee, the question of Egypt's admission should be examined by the General Main Committee itself.

The Chairman's proposal was adopted.

The Chairman opened the discussion on Egypt's request for admission to the League, which had been referred by the Assembly to the General Main Committee.⁴ He said that delegations should confine themselves to speaking on questions of procedure or to expressing a simple opinion, for it was his intention to give

them an opportunity, in plenary meeting and in the Egyptian delegation's presence, of making any statement they wished in connection with Egypt's admission.

In those circumstances, and in order to simplify the General Main Committee's work, the Chairman first asked the delegations present whether they were prepared, in principle, to recommend that the Assembly admit Egypt to the League of Nations, and to adopt a draft resolution in that sense.

* * *

No observations having been made, the Chairman interpreted the views of all the delegations present by declaring that the Committee expressed itself in favour of Egypt's admission to the League of Nations, and accordingly wished to recommend Egypt's admission to the Assembly.

* * *

The Chairman pointed out that one other question, which was a corollary to the first, was before the Committee — namely, that of fixing Egypt's contribution to the League's expenditure in the event of her being admitted, as everyone anticipated. On the basis of the information supplied to the Chairman, that contribution might reasonably be fixed at 12 units for the duration of the present scale, which would remain in force until the end of the 1939 financial year.

The Committee approved the Chairman's proposals.

The meeting was suspended for a quarter of an hour for the preparation of an appropriate draft resolution.

**REQUEST OF THE KINGDOM OF EGYPT FOR
ADMISSION TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS:
ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION FOR
SUBMISSION TO THE ASSEMBLY.**

The Chairman presented to the Committee the following draft resolution :

" I.

" The General Main Committee,

" In view of the invitation addressed by numerous Members of the League to the Egyptian Government to the effect that Egypt should become a Member of the League of Nations ;

" In view of the request for admission presented on March 4th and 16th, 1937, by the Egyptian Government ;

" Noting that in its communication of March 16th the Egyptian Government declares that Egypt ' has the sincere intention to observe its international obligations, and will accept such regulations as may be prescribed by the League in regard to its military, naval and air forces and armaments ' :

" Recommends the Assembly to admit Egypt as a Member of the League of Nations."

" II.

" The General Main Committee recommends the Assembly to fix the rate of contribution of Egypt to the expenses of the League for the years 1937, 1938, and 1939, subject to any decision which may be taken at the next ordinary session of the Assembly, at twelve units."

The resolution was adopted.

¹ See Annex II, pages 44 and 45.

² See Annex I, pages 37-44.

³ See *Official Journal*, Special Supplement No. 130, page 17.

⁴ See page 22.

SECOND PLENARY MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, May 26th, 1937, at 5 p.m.

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APPLICATION BY THE KINGDOM OF EGYPT FOR
ADMISSION INTO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS :
Resolution of the General Main Committee.

CREDENTIALS OF THE DELEGATES OF THE KINGDOM
OF EGYPT :
Report of the Committee on Credentials.

ENTRY OF THE KINGDOM OF EGYPT INTO THE
LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

President : M. RÜSTÜ ARAS.

REQUEST OF THE KINGDOM OF EGYPT
FOR ADMISSION TO THE LEAGUE OF
NATIONS : RESOLUTION OF THE
GENERAL MAIN COMMITTEE.

The President :

Translation : The General Main Committee appointed by the Assembly this morning met this afternoon¹ under my chairmanship to consider Egypt's request for admission into the League of Nations.

The Committee unanimously agreed to recommend Egypt's admission, and has asked me to lay the following resolution before the Assembly on its behalf :²

" I.

" The General Committee,

" In view of the invitation addressed by numerous Members of the League to the Egyptian Government to the effect that Egypt should become a Member of the League of Nations ;

" In view of the request for admission presented on March 4th³ and 16th, 1937,³ by the Egyptian Government ;

" Noting that in its communication of March 16th the Egyptian Government declares that Egypt 'has the sincere intention to observe its international obligations, and will accept such regulations as may be prescribed by the League in regard to its military, naval and air forces and armaments' :

" Recommends the Assembly to admit Egypt as a Member of the League of Nations."

" II.

" The General Committee recommends the Assembly to fix the rate of contribution of Egypt to the expenses of the League for the years 1937, 1938 and 1939, subject to any decision which may be taken at the next ordinary session of the Assembly, at twelve units."

The Assembly will note that the General Main Committee's resolution is divided into two parts : one recommends the Assembly to admit Egypt into the League of Nations and, in consequence, a vote by roll-call will be taken on that question, as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure. The purpose of the other part of the resolution is that the Assembly should fix Egypt's contribution to the expenses of the League for the period until the end of 1939. I

shall therefore ask the Assembly to take a decision on this part of the draft resolution, which it will be asked to adopt after the vote on the admission of Egypt into the League.

The Assembly will now proceed to vote on Egypt's request for admission into the League. Under Article 1 of the Covenant, any State which asks to enter the League of Nations may become a Member if its admission is agreed to by two-thirds of the Assembly.

The procedure followed will be that provided in Rule 20, first paragraph, of the Rules of Procedure. The name of each delegation will be called, and one of its members will reply " Yes ", or " No ", or " Not voting ".

The result of the vote will be recorded and announced to the Assembly.

(The vote was taken by roll-call.)

The President :

Translation : The result of the voting is as follows :

Number of States present : 46.

Number of States voting in favour of the resolution : 46.

I therefore announce that the Assembly has unanimously decided to admit Egypt into the League of Nations.

The delegations of Australia, the Dominican Republic, the United States of Mexico and Spain, who were absent when the vote was taken, have informed me that they associate themselves with the unanimous vote.

I should like to congratulate the new Member of the League of Nations now, and I shall offer it a welcome as soon as its delegation has taken its place among us.

CREDENTIALS OF THE DELEGATES OF
THE KINGDOM OF EGYPT : REPORT
OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

The President :

Translation : Before inviting the representatives of Egypt to take their places among us I had requested the Committee on Credentials to examine the credentials of the members of the Egyptian delegation.

I therefore call upon His Excellency M. Guani, Chairman of the Committee on Credentials, to submit the Committee's report.

M. Guani (Uruguay), Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee on Credentials :

Translation : The Committee appointed by the Assembly to examine the full powers of the delegates under Rule 5, paragraph 3, of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly met again on May 26th, 1937, to examine whether the representatives of the Kingdom of Egypt were duly accredited to take part in the work of the special session of the Assembly of the League which has opened this morning.

The Secretary-General of the League forwarded to the Committee the full powers by which, in accordance with Rule 5, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Procedure, His Excellency the Minister

¹ See page 23.

² Document A.(Extr.).5.1937.VII.

³ Document A.(Extr.).2.1937 (see pages 44 and 45).

for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Egypt accredited the delegates of the Kingdom of Egypt to the present special session of the Assembly.

The Committee, after having examined these full powers, considers that the representatives of the Kingdom of Egypt are duly accredited to take part in the work of this session.

The President :

Translation : I thank the Chairman of the Committee on Credentials for his report.

The Assembly has heard the report of the Credentials Committee on the credentials of the Egyptian delegation. If there are no observations, I shall declare the conclusions of the report adopted.

The conclusions of the report were adopted.

ENTRY OF THE KINGDOM OF EGYPT INTO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The President :

Translation : I now invite the delegates of the Kingdom of Egypt to do us the honour of taking their places among us.

(The delegates of the Kingdom of Egypt took their seats in the Assembly.)

The President :

Translation : In my two-fold quality as President of the Assembly and first delegate of Turkey, I have particular satisfaction in addressing you at this moment, on the solemn occasion of the entry of Egypt into the League of Nations.

This very important Mediterranean country, to which Turkey is closely bound by so many memories of a common history and by the cordial bonds of deep friendship, has in a very short space of time completed the successive stages of a process of evolution that is as peaceful as it is glorious. The young Mediterranean State, with a great future before it, has definitively attained complete independence, and has just recently secured, on the hospitable soil of Switzerland, the abolition — which it rightly had so much at heart — of the regime of capitulations.

With the disappearance of this heritage of the past, and with the entry that is so sincerely welcomed into this assemblage of States of all continents, a new era opens for this brave and vigorous people, whose high qualities the Turkish nation has always appreciated.

In speaking of Egypt's accession to the great Geneva institution, the greatest international body the world has ever yet known, I should like to recall one historic fact concerning the relations of ancient Egypt with an old people of Asia Minor.

It has been proved by archæological documents carefully preserved in the museums of Turkey and Egypt that the most ancient international act, the oldest political treaty in the world, is that concluded and signed between the ancient Egyptians and the Hittites, those Hittites whom the Turks of the West rightly consider to be their ancestors.

A comparison inevitably suggests itself between the embryonic political life which gave birth to this first instrument of diplomacy and the great international life which to-day is developing and evolving within our League of Nations.

Egypt, which has behind her a glorious history and which unites the possession of material and spiritual resources, in every sphere,

with the benefits of a most favourable geographical situation, will undoubtedly constitute a new and beneficent force working for that ideal of peace that is so dear to us all.

My country is particularly glad to see Egypt take her place among us as a Member of the League, because this young independent and sovereign State will become a new factor making for equilibrium in the Mediterranean, where the basis of Turkish policy is the maintenance of the *status quo*, which can be effectively assured only by a firm resolve that there shall be sincere collaboration among all the States bordering upon that sea.

The universality of the League is regarded as a fundamental principle that will do much to promote the organisation of peace, and Republican Turkey, which is zealously striving to achieve this end, warmly welcomes the entry of the new Egypt into the great institution of Geneva.

His Excellency Mustapha El-Nahas Pasha, first delegate of Egypt, will address the Assembly.

Mustapha El-Nahas Pasha (Egypt) :

Translation : Egypt's entry into the League of Nations constitutes, for my country, an act of faith. This day has long been awaited by the Egyptian nation, for it enables that nation at last to take part in the organisation of world peace.

A number of States sent us cordial invitations, thereby paving the way for this reception, the friendliness of which will go straight to the heart of the Egyptian people. I owe sincere thanks to those States, and to the entire Assembly for its unanimous vote, and to you, too, Mr. President, for having welcomed our admission to the League in words that were as cordial as they were eloquent.

It is with a firm determination to afford her effective co-operation that Egypt, in taking her place among you, regards the high responsibility that devolves upon her; for she is here to serve, not only the ideal of peace, but also the reality of peace.

Before joining the League of Nations, Egypt was already applying the League's principles. Her sons, who down the ages have been able to preserve the characteristics of the race, its gentleness of character and its spirit of tolerance, have ensured internal peace by a regime of order and justice, by a constant endeavour to foster development and progress, by the farsightedness and moderation of the administration, by the application of the soundest principles of democracy, and by a profoundly liberal Constitution.

Following age-long traditions of hospitality, Egypt has just spontaneously opened up, at the Montreux Conference for the abolition of capitulations, a vast field of activity for loyal collaboration and sincere initiative of every kind. On her soil, foreigners as well as Egyptians will receive to-morrow, as yesterday, friendly protection under the liberal laws applied by an authority imbued with sincere understanding.

Moreover, Egypt, firmly established within her frontiers, has no need to cast envious eyes beyond her horizons. While she is happy on her own soil, she knows that to-day a nation's happiness is never assured unless there is general tranquillity. That was the primary ideal followed by those who set up the League of Nations; and it is to the triumph of this ideal, to which you have devoted yourselves, that we come here to give our sincere collaboration, in the belief that this association of peoples, the hope of the world, will surmount the obstacles that still remain, and that day by day it will successfully bring about, in the political, econo-

mic, financial and social spheres, agreement among all for the good of all.

We have faith in the final victory of the principles by which we are guided. Clouds may lower, the clash of interests may arise, but is that a reason to despair? In the lives of men and of institutions everything moves on by stages, and it is no chimera, no Utopian dream, to try to make the will for peace a tangible reality, deep-set in every heart. In spite of all, mankind is moving onward towards the ideal of concord and fraternity from which the League of Nations sprang.

In thanking you once more, Egypt is happy to assure you of her devotion and her zeal. A year ago, by the signing of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty which established firm and lasting bonds of friendship and trust between the great British people and the Egyptian people, and again a few days ago, by the signing of the Convention for the abolition of capitulations, my country evinced its deep attachment to peace and its constant desire for the attainment of international solidarity. It takes as its watchword the philosopher's maxim: "Peace must be the masterpiece of human art."

The President :

Translation : Sayid Subih Najib, delegate of Iraq, will address the Assembly.

Sayid Subih Najib (Iraq).—On this exceptional occasion, when Iraq's profound desire to see Egypt admitted as a fellow-Member of the League of Nations is realised, it was the special wish of the Iraqi Government that the Minister for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Dr. Naji Al Asil, should be present in person to pay tribute to Egypt and to signalise this great event. At the last moment, he has been unavoidably detained. The rapidly developing co-operation of the States of the Near and Middle East which is undoubtedly serving the general aims of peace and security of this part of the world, as well as of the world at large, has reached a stage at which it was indispensable for him to remain in Baghdad. Much as the Iraqi Government and Dr. Naji Al Asil wished that he should be present here to-day, they feel assured that the present exceptional opportunity for pursuing the League's aims there will be cordially accepted in explanation of his absence here. I therefore have the honour to say on behalf of the Iraqi Government, what he would have said had he been present.

Less than five years ago the Assembly of the League of Nations welcomed the first Arab country to join the ranks of its Members. That country was Iraq, which I have the honour to represent to-day. Now the Assembly has met to deal with the application of Egypt for membership, and the fact that this is the second occasion only in the history of the League that the Assembly has met in special session for such a purpose is some indication of the importance attached to this event.

When Egypt announced to the world that she would seek membership of the League, my Government took the initiative in inviting her to make her application.¹ The community of aims, interests and ideals which exists between Iraq and Egypt, and Egypt's geographical position, would have been sufficient to justify

that initiative, but when to these are added the ties of race, religion and culture, it was imperatively indicated.

Furthermore, my Government is convinced of Egypt's capacity and readiness to pursue within the League, as she has hitherto done outside it, the fundamental ideals of the Covenant, international co-operation and international peace and security. That this conviction is generally shared by the Members of the League was unmistakably shown by the spontaneous and cordial invitations so many of them extended to her. Except when the Assembly has actually been in session, such a series of invitations to seek membership has never been extended to any State. And instead of waiting until next September, we are now meeting to implement our invitation in special session with the approval, as far as I know, of every Member of the League. No greater testimony to Egypt, and no greater assurance of the regard in which she is held or of the confidence which she inspires, could have been devised. I venture to interpret the action of the Members who supported Iraq's initiative in inviting Egypt to apply for membership, and of those who approved of our meeting in special session, as a compliment of the highest order to the State and people which we hope to see represented here at Geneva for all time from now onwards.

The view already so generally expressed that the admission of a new Member is an advance of the greatest possible moment in the direction of making the League universal needs no rehearsing. Egypt's active and loyal participation already in so much of the League's work is an earnest, if earnest were needed, of her ability and readiness to contribute still more fully to international co-operation, peace and security. I do not propose to enlarge upon this. But what I do wish to mention particularly are some reasons why Iraq considers Egypt's admission to the League especially valuable.

First and foremost, the representation of Arab civilisation and culture in the League, so warmly welcomed five years ago, will be doubled by Egypt's admission. This notable development, it is legitimate to hope, will be followed quickly, at no great distance of time, by the arrival of other representatives of Arab civilisation and culture. At least one such representative of the Mediterranean seaboard may be expected soon to take her place in the League and to participate fully in the world's work for orderly international life. It is the hope of Iraq that Egypt will be followed very shortly by the sister State of Syria, and by yet others.

Another reason is that Egypt's admission to membership will partially fill the void caused by the non-collaboration, for whatever reason, of certain States, and will give cause for hope that this void will be completely filled in the reasonably near future.

We must earnestly hope that Egypt's admission to membership will assure to her that security against the peril of unregulated international life which should flow from the rights and guarantees contained in the Covenant. Her own developing strength, and that of her closest friends, will reinforce those guarantees and will undoubtedly contribute greatly to improving the application of the principles of the Covenant, which is, at the moment, the chief preoccupation of the League.

¹ See Annex I, Communication No. 1, page 37.

Finally, may I remind the Assembly that, in the past, when the League has been faced with problems which taxed its powers to the utmost and when there seemed to be some grounds for depreciating its effectiveness and its influence for good, a new candidate for membership has always appeared. So, now, when difficulties are great and their solutions far to seek, a new candidate appears. That this candidate should be one whose civilisation is so old, whose apprenticeship in statecraft has been so long, and whose will and ability to share to the full the responsibilities of membership in the League are already so well proved, is an exceptional stroke of good fortune for us all and for the institution in which we place our trust. We are grateful to Egypt for the opportunity she has given us of demonstrating the League's vitality. Therefore, in the name of Iraq, I wholeheartedly welcome the admission of the Kingdom of Egypt to the League of Nations.

The President :

Translation : The Right Honourable Anthony Eden, first delegate of the United Kingdom, will address the Assembly.

The Right Hon. Anthony Eden (United Kingdom). — I trust that my colleagues in the Assembly will permit me to say a few words on this historic occasion as a representative of a Power whose destinies, during the past fifty years, have been so closely bound up with those of the new Member whom we are welcoming here to-day.

First of all, let me say how heartily I reciprocate the cordial references made to my country in the eloquent speech of Egypt's distinguished Prime Minister, and with what sincerity I echo his reference to the close co-operation between the Governments of Egypt and the United Kingdom.

Each of us must surely be acutely conscious, as we assist at this ceremony to-day, of the continuity of history. We are here fifty-two States assembled. Yet there is not one of us who is not in some measure indebted to the ancient and highly developed civilisation of Egypt. Long before some of the nations we represent had emerged from their primæval forests, Egypt had endowed mankind with the gifts of science and letters and, above all, with the treasures of her matchless art, which is still a source of awe and wonderment to this day. Varied and vivid, however, as has been Egypt's national life, there can have been few years in her aged history so eventful as the past twelve months.

It has long been the aim of His Majesty's Government to assist Egypt to the realisation of her full independence. With the conclusion of the Treaty of Friendship and Alliance between the United Kingdom and Egypt last August, it may be said that this aim has been achieved. The Treaty has already, and with remarkable speed, paved the way for two signal successes for the Egyptian Government and people. First, the recent Convention concluded at Montreux, which provides for the abolition of the capitulations, and now the admission of Egypt to the League of Nations.

The admission of Egypt to the League sets the seal upon her independence and will, I am confident, mark the beginning of an epoch of fruitful collaboration between her and the other Members of the League. Egypt has always had close relations with the outside world, and

these have grown even closer in recent times when foreign capital and technical advice have been called upon to play so prominent a part in the making of modern Egypt. In this close and cordial co-operation, Egypt has played the part of a practised host, showing friendship and tolerance to all. This experience of co-operation with the outside world will now be applied to the wider sphere represented by the activities of the League. I am convinced that Egypt's participation in the work of the League will be of great value to us all as well as to Egypt herself. We gain the support of a people whose ancient traditions and culture are combined with a modern and progressive outlook towards the problems of to-day.

In welcoming our new Member, I should like to pay a special tribute to the statesmanship of the men who have guided the destinies of Egypt during this last and most momentous year. I am confident that the qualities they have shown will ensure the success and prosperity of Egypt and will be of signal assistance in the counsels of the League of Nations.

The President :

Translation : His Excellency M. Sandler, first delegate of Sweden, will address the Assembly.

M. Sandler (Sweden) :

Translation : As delegate of Sweden, and in the name of my Danish, Finnish and Norwegian colleagues, I wish to associate myself with the congratulations which have just been expressed towards the new Member of the League of Nations. May I address my congratulations more particularly to His Excellency El-Nahas Pasha, who presides over the destinies of Egypt with a lofty wisdom worthy of the glorious age-long past of that great country.

We should, however, congratulate ourselves above all upon the fact that the great Geneva institution is once again being strengthened. The League has just traversed a further stage on the way towards the realisation of the principle of universality. We all know that Egypt, placed as she is at the crossroads of the great lines of communication between West and East, has a peculiarly important part to play in the work of establishing peace and concord among the nations. She is for that reason all the more to be welcomed among us.

The President :

Translation : His Excellency M. Anouchirevan Sepahbodi, first delegate of Iran, will address the Assembly.

M. Sepahbodi (Iran) :

Translation : It is with the keenest pleasure and the sincerest happiness that, in the name of the Government of Iran, I join my congratulations to those of my colleagues on the occasion of the election of Egypt to membership of the League of Nations.

The joy felt by the Iranian people reflects that intimate community of culture which, by the evidence of history, linked Egypt through the ancient civilisations of Babylonia and Elam to the Persia of the Achæmenides.

After the birth of Islam, community of religion broadened still further the cultural relations existing between the two countries. Iran, which made so notable a contribution to the development of Islamic knowledge, benefited in its turn from the splendour which, at the opening of the modern era, came into being at Al Azhar, the celebrated college of Islamic learning in the Egyptian capital.

It is a matter for sincere rejoicing to see new States day by day coming forward to offer

us their support. After the States of near Asia, now Egypt comes to join us. Her representatives, profoundly conscious of their duties and of their rights, are sitting here amongst us. There is no doubt that, by virtue of the lofty traditions of her age-old civilisation, Egypt will bring the most useful and the most effective assistance to the international institutions of Geneva. That assistance will be all the more valuable since it is being proffered at the very time when the League most needs to make a new effort to recover its full prestige. The accession of a new State of such importance as Egypt is a further guarantee that the work of peace and justice among the nations will be brought to fulfilment, and it allows us to contemplate the future with greater optimism.

The President :

Translation : His Excellency M. Yvon Delbos, first delegate of France, will address the Assembly.

M. Delbos (France) :

Translation : In welcoming Egypt within its midst, the League of Nations has performed an act of happy augury. It thus completes and crowns the attainment of the legitimate aspirations of a people who now, in this consecration of their full sovereignty, obtain the recognition of their most cherished ideal. Egypt is justly proud and joyful on attaining her freedom; and France, whose history and whose institutions are imbued with the spirit of democracy, would be false to the most abiding and the highest of her traditions did she not sincerely share in that joy. She knows that independence is the strongest guarantee both of the probity and of the permanence of international relationships; and in that spirit she has unreservedly consented to the liberation of Egypt from her bonds. Together with the other Powers she gave her preference not to the surety afforded by time-honoured privileges but to the word of a nation henceforward to possess autonomy and responsibility. We are convinced that we shall never regret our response to the appeal from the Government of His Excellency Mustapha El-Nahas Pasha, when invoking the generous hospitality of his country no less than the services rendered to it by foreign collaboration, we were asked to trust it to safeguard the continuity of that collaboration.

At Montreux, we explained quite simply and frankly the anxiety we were bound to feel for the defence of our moral and material interests — interests, moreover, that Egypt herself readily recognises to be honourable, genuine and active. France, which has had her part in the evolution of a country whose past is lost in the night of time, knows that she is overlooking nothing of what she owes both to Egypt and to herself in consenting to place under the guarantee of a vigilant friendship the future of a co-operation which neither country can safely allow to be compromised.

For us, who regard liberty as the most precious of possessions, the accession of Egypt to full independence brings to the concert of modern countries the contribution of a nation, itself modern too, whose strength is redoubled by its rejuvenation. The Egyptian people will bring to Geneva the experience of the East, of an East which, far from fixing itself in static forms, strives not only to benefit the West by its wisdom but also to fertilise its own civilisation by contact with Europe. The League of Nations, by its enthusiastic unanimity, shows how greatly it values that assistance. It will gain thereby, for its equilibrium will be more broadly based and its authority will be more firmly established and better respected.

But France, whose rôle here is so closely allied to her political traditions, has particular reason to open her arms to Egypt, the most ancient of Mediterranean nations. She is happy also to extend that welcome as being herself a Mohammedan Power. For centuries closely concerned with the life of the peoples of Islam and a friend of Arab thought, the nobility and value of which she is well able to know and appreciate, France associates herself with the joy of the Egyptian people in the name of all the Mohammedans counted among her children, just as, last year, Egypt rejoiced when we emancipated Syria and Lebanon. From Aleppo, Damascus and Beirut to Tunis, Constantine, Algiers, Tlemcen, Fez and Marrakesh, one single voice congratulates Egypt at this hour. Franco-Egyptian understanding cannot but emerge strengthened by those spiritual exchanges through which neighbouring peoples bring new life to their civilisations.

Egypt's past history stands surety to us for the balanced spirit and the sense of continuity which will guide her in her international relations. Independence favours the conception and the achievement of generous designs; but independence also entails weighty obligations, and even certain dangers. Egypt, we are convinced, will not fail to carry out those obligations or to avoid those dangers. To that country, whose soil owes its fertility not only to the alluvium of the Nile but equally to the toil of a frugal and courageous people, we proffer with all our heart our wishes for a brilliant and prosperous future.

To the Government of His Excellency El-Nahas Pasha, its beloved and respected leader, who after so many years of effort has had the happiness of seeing the ideals of his compatriots realised, to his collaborators, whose greatness of mind and realism of spirit we know, and, finally, to the Egyptian people, so wise, so proud and so industrious, we offer the sincerest and the heartiest good wishes.

The President :

Translation : His Excellency M. Nicolas Politis, first delegate of Greece, will address the Assembly.

M. Politis (Greece) :

Translation : On behalf of Greece, which has always been the friend of Egypt, and also on behalf of the Balkan *Entente*, for whom respect for national independence — for all national independence — is an article of faith, I desire to associate myself in all sincerity with the congratulations and the good wishes which have been addressed to the Egyptian delegation. We understand and we share the joy which must at this moment fill the hearts of our Egyptian colleagues; for this day must, I think, stand as a very great date in the history of modern Egypt. It is the day on which Egypt has taken out her letters of naturalisation in the family of free nations.

It is by a stern struggle that Egypt has now won her freedom. Thanks to the noteworthy and untiring efforts of her leaders, she has accomplished the three final stages in less than a year. Scarcely nine months ago she secured the recognition of her independence by the protecting Power, which has thus once again given the world striking evidence of its lofty spirit of generous liberalism and of its rare political and administrative qualities. This recognition of independence was obtained through an agreement, the elasticity and political wisdom of which cannot be too highly admired, for it not merely granted liberty to Egypt, but raised that country to the enviable rank of ally of the greatest Power in the world.

That first stage, once achieved, made the second stage easier. It was attained scarcely three weeks ago at Montreux, where Egypt was emancipated from another form of guardianship which appeared incompatible with her political liberty. There too, this result was reached by the consent of all parties through an agreement which did the greatest honour to the Egyptian negotiators; it bore the mark of their lofty and yet practical spirit, which revealed to those associated with them, of whom I had the honour to be one, the qualities of true statesmanship.

To-day, the last stage is achieved. Egypt becomes finally free. She takes rank as an equal among free and independent nations. She witnesses the fulfilment of the great dream conceived a century ago by the great founder of her dynasty, Mehemet Ali, whose desire it was that the valley of the Nile should become a free and prosperous country. That dream is now fulfilled; and I would recall that, among the means which that great Egyptian employed for the initiation of this great work, was an appeal for European support, a support that has brought to Egypt much of her present prosperity.

Greece too has done much to help. The Greek community was, indeed, particularly favoured by Mehemet Ali, and it was happy to work hand in hand and in a community of spirit with the Egyptians for the creation of modern Egypt. That was a further bond added to the close and age-long relations between Egypt and Greece — relations, I may say, of trust, collaboration and friendship.

Twenty-five years ago, when Kavala once more became Greek, a new link was added to so many former ones. Kavala is the birthplace of Mehemet Ali. In a few months' time, that solidarity, that peculiar friendship, that new link added to so many others, will be manifested in a doubly symbolic fashion. An equestrian statue of Mehemet Ali is to be erected in a square in Kavala, which lies before the house in which Mehemet Ali was born, facing the sea and looking towards the venerable land of the Pharaohs. It will be symbolic, too, in that Mehemet Ali will be represented, his task as a soldier done, as sheathing his sword, henceforth to consecrate himself to his great work of peace, the work of making Egypt, as I have said, a free and prosperous country.

Such is the achievement, my friends, which you have the happiness to witness to-day. You may well be proud of the results obtained, and you may face the future confident of placing the economic and cultural development of your country upon a still surer basis and of seeing your country collaborate closely, in the eastern area of the Mediterranean, with the countries of the Balkan *Entente*, and becoming an element of order, progress, stability and peace.

Such, my dear Egyptian colleagues and friends, are the wishes which I, voicing the feelings of Greece and of the Balkan *Entente*, address to you on this solemn occasion for the prosperity and good fortune of your country.

The President :

Translation : His Highness the Right Honourable the Aga Khan, first delegate of India, will address the Assembly.

His Highness the Aga Khan (India). — I account it no mean privilege to represent India at this special session of the Assembly, for the business we have in hand is the shaping of history itself. It is not merely that Egypt's entry into

the League of Nations marks yet another stage on the laborious road towards that universality which is our goal. India is too conscious of her own many millions, to find satisfaction in the addition of numbers alone. Whatever its numerical strength, the League has long seemed to India too representative of one civilisation and of one creed, to be able to claim universality in a truly catholic sense.

Additions to our great comity of nations in the last few years have, however, wrought a vivifying change. Turkey, Iraq, Afghanistan, and now — last, but not least — Egypt, have gone far to make up the balance between East and West. And, in Indian eyes, no addition will be more significant than Egypt's entry into the League to-day. For Egypt is the meeting ground of both; a connecting link between the two. Like India, with an age-long civilisation that goes far beyond the thousands of years of known history, Egypt has an understanding of both Eastern and Western civilisation and will assuredly assist us in our deliberations and our activities to convert what all too often appears to be a gulf that divides, into a bridge that unites.

But to an Indian, the scene we are now enacting means even more than this. To-day the crowning seal is set on Egypt's re-assumption of her ancient and glorious sovereignty. That she re-assumes her full sovereignty, sponsored by Great Britain and with Great Britain's powerful support is something that no Indian with any foresight could witness wholly unmoved, wholly untouched by imaginative vision. Least of all could a Muslim like myself, one of the 80 million Muslims of India, witness it unmoved; for, to us, Egyptians are not aliens or strangers, but brothers with the same culture, the same religion, the same outlook on the world. How intimate that union of culture between Egyptian and Indian Muslims is can best be shown if I quote the fact that an Indian Muslim or an Egyptian, whatever their social or economic position, if found in the other's country, will be immediately at home. Even if the language is not understood, the similarity of custom and habit of brotherly feeling and of religious faith, will make him feel that he has not left his own country. Thus, all the more heartily, sincerely and with pride and pleasure, in the name of India, I bid Egypt welcome to the League and God speed.

The President :

Translation : His Excellency M. Giuseppe Motta, delegate of Switzerland, will address the Assembly.

M. Motta (Switzerland) :

Translation : I desire to express publicly on behalf of the Swiss delegation the very great satisfaction we feel at the unanimous acceptance of Egypt as a Member of the League.

The admission of Egypt has been our long-cherished wish. Iraq and Switzerland were the first States to express to the Egyptian Government the hope that it would submit an official application for membership.¹ There were two reasons for that — a special reason, and a general one. The special reason arose from the sincere and deep friendship which has long

¹ See Annex I, Communications Nos. 1 and 2, page 37.

existed between the Swiss Confederation and the Kingdom of Egypt. The general reason was that the admission of Egypt would be another and, in our eyes, a most important step towards universality.

We are fully aware that universality is not the only remedy for the ills from which the League has always suffered and is still suffering; but we more than ever believe the essential truth that the League will never become fully imbued with life and vigour until all States are members, in particular, the great Powers. Facts speak for themselves, and the hope which we shall continue to voice ever more insistently is that all States may come to Geneva or may return there. We are determined opponents of the policy of forming ideological groups; we regard it as the worst policy of all in the international sphere. Switzerland is a democratic country, founded upon principles of liberty; but nothing will prevent us from living in harmony and friendship, and from collaborating with all States which do not improperly interfere with our internal affairs, and especially with those whose institutions differ most from ours.

I desire to congratulate the Egyptian Government on the great success it has achieved, and I trust that this day will be the earnest of a better future for us all. That is the wish I desire to tender to our Egyptian colleagues, as delegate of Switzerland and, you will allow me to add, as President of the Confederation.

The President :

Translation : His Excellency M. Kamil Krofta, first delegate of Czechoslovakia, will address the Assembly.

M. Krofta (Czechoslovakia) :

Translation : On behalf of the *Petite Entente*, I should like to express our most sincere good wishes to the State which has just been admitted to the League.

The *Petite Entente* has special reasons for rejoicing at the entry of Egypt. In the first place, there is our sympathy towards a country so rich in traditions, going back to the most remote antiquity, with a wealth of treasures of every kind accumulated during thousands of years of culture, yet so young and overflowing with a desire to lead, in independence, a life that shall be happy and fruitful. Egypt, which thousands of years ago, marched in the van of civilisation, now puts her strength at the service of mankind of to-day, and of peace. She takes once again a place among the nations that is worthy of her long tradition dating from the dawn of history.

The joy felt by the *Petite Entente* in the admission of Egypt amongst our members is all the greater because that admission brings us nearer to the hour which will see the realisation of one of our most ardent hopes — namely, that the League may become a universal association embracing within its membership all those who sincerely and wholeheartedly desire to serve the ideals of peace among men.

The States of the *Petite Entente* are firmly convinced that the new Member, with a pride worthy of its glorious past and with a courage which justifies its fortunate present, will become the champion of the ideal of humanity and peace. It is with this hope, this profound conviction, that, on behalf of the States of the *Petite Entente*, I greet the new Member of the League of Nations and welcome it to this Assembly.

The President :

Translation : His Excellency M. Agustín Edwards, first delegate of Chile, will address the Assembly.

M. Edwards (Chile) :

Translation : The advent of Egypt — a kingdom that is a living testimony to the whole world of the indestructibility of civilisation and its finest examples of art, science and culture, which may sometimes suffer eclipse but always reappears in its full splendour — to the concert of sovereign and independent nations, and its consecration as such at this moment when the League is admitting it to membership, has been welcomed with the greatest joy in my country. Chile, as one of the States that invited Egypt to apply for membership, desires on this solemn occasion to express the deep satisfaction with which the Chilean Government and people welcome the valuable and enlightened co-operation of a great country to which my own has been bound for so many years by close ties of friendship.

This will be a memorable day in the annals of the League. It marks the culmination of a pact of peace and friendship between one of the greatest Powers in the world and an ancient nation, affirming the establishment of international relations on the basis of justice and honour to which the League Covenant refers. Guided by this same principle, twelve Powers have recently, at Montreux, opened up the way towards an amicable settlement with a view to eliminating even the possibility of friction in the new era which now begins for Egypt.

This is eloquent proof, which we ought to make known to the whole world from this platform, that inequality of material power counts for nothing in the eyes of great democracies such as the United Kingdom, when an opportunity offers to consolidate the principles of liberty, equality and fraternity among peoples, proclaimed a century and a half ago by another great European Power — principles on which, I venture to believe, this great international democracy known as the League of Nations was founded, and by which it is inspired.

The President :

Translation : His Excellency M. Augusto de Vasconcellos, first delegate of Portugal, will address the Assembly.

M. de Vasconcellos (Portugal) :

Translation : The situation in which we find ourselves to-day is certainly no ordinary one; the representatives of one of the oldest civilisations in the world are now taking their seats in the youngest international institution. It is a sign of the times that the first act of this country, restored to complete independence, should be to claim her place by the side of those who are pursuing the ideal of substituting right for might in international relations.

The Government of the Portuguese Republic, a pioneer in the relations between Europe and Africa, attached to Egypt by age-old links, endeavoured from the outset to co-operate in the work of justice and equity designed to restore this magnificent country to its full sovereignty. Quite recently, Portugal has shown this, by sending to Montreux one of her most distinguished jurists and statesmen to defend, as he was well able to do, the cause of right and to ensure respect for common interests.

The new Member State has joined the League at a time commonly described as "difficult". It is indeed difficult, more particularly because, in a world living under the sign and pressure of speed, barrages have been set up, and these barrages impede the free circulation of currents on which the life of societies depends; currents of commercial relations, of exchanges of capital and raw materials, even intellectual and touring relations between the nations, have all suffered more or less from congestion or anæmia. You,

Egyptians, who control one of the principal stages on one of the most essential routes for the free circulation of those currents and who are at the same time, past masters in the art of operating and regulating barrages, will certainly give us valuable help in the necessary task of restoring the health and strength of the world by normalising the vital currents of world economy. Egypt will bring us the authority of a civilisation that has left imperishable monuments as a mark of her greatness, and superb documents attesting the greatness of her artistic and scientific culture. We therefore welcome you among us.

On behalf of my Government, I wish to express my most sincere hope that, from the summit of your Pyramids, as the centuries unfold, you may henceforth see nothing save the work of peace and the benefits of prosperity.

The President :

Translation : His Excellency M. Tytus Komarnicki, first delegate of Poland, will address the Assembly.

M. Komarnicki (Poland) :

Translation : On behalf of the Polish Government I am happy to associate myself with this great demonstration of welcome to Egypt as a new Member of the League of Nations. My country was one of the first, through its representative at Cairo, to intimate to the Royal Egyptian Government Poland's sincere desire that Egypt should take her rightful place among this community of independent and sovereign States. I cannot, I think, do better than quote from the note in question:¹

"The Polish Government has no doubt that the presence of Egypt as an independent sovereign State in the League of Nations would be a valuable contribution to the realisation of the idea of universality, the importance of which has many times been emphasised by the Polish Government."

I desire to tender our warmest congratulations to the distinguished statesman who is the head of the Egyptian delegation on the great success he has achieved here to-day.

The President :

Translation : His Excellency M. Wellington Koo, delegate of China, will address the Assembly.

M. Wellington Koo (China). — The accession of Egypt to membership of the League is now an accomplished fact. To the welcome and congratulations of the other delegations I wish to add those of the Chinese delegation. The Chinese Government, through its representative at Cairo, was pleased to convey its felicitations and assurances of support to the Royal Egyptian Government as soon as it had learned, in the early part of the year, of its intention to join this world institution². It has given us the greatest satisfaction and pleasure to-day to contribute our modest share to the realisation of our common wish to see Egypt amongst us as a fellow Member.

The Chinese people have always admired the time-honoured culture and civilisation of Egypt. The Chinese people, with their 48 million fellow-countrymen of Moslem faith, have indeed watched with sympathy and interest the aspirations and efforts of the Egyptian people to take their rightful place in the family of nations.

Their success in Geneva, no less than the satisfactory outcome of the Montreux Conference, while symbolic of the new, growing sentiment of international justice, is nevertheless richly merited by this great people hoary with tradition, but resplendent with the spirit and energy of youth.

The primary purpose of the League is twofold; to encourage collaboration of all peoples for the common welfare of humanity and to promote peace in the entire world. For the attainment of this double object, concerted efforts, animated by a common spirit of devotion to the principles of the Covenant, are most likely to succeed. From this point of view, the accession of every new Member to the League brings us a step nearer to the realisation of the ideal of universal peace. But the presence of Egypt as a sovereign State in the League has an added significance. With its special geographical situation, with its well-known spirit of co-operation and with its past record of contribution in diverse fields of international activity, it must mean at the same time an important accretion of the collaborative forces of our institution.

We of the Chinese delegation, holding fast to the fundamental principles of the League, and longing to see the rise of a new order in international relations which those principles promise, rejoice therefore the more keenly at the accession of an old and good people to our ranks, and at the prospect of its collaborating with us fully in our common task to advance the cause of peace and security among nations and of justice and concord in the world.

The President :

Translation : His Excellency Mohammed Haïdar Khan, delegate of Afghanistan, will address the Assembly.

Mohammed Haïdar Khan (Afghanistan) :

Translation : It is with profound joy that I am speaking to-day on behalf of my Government in order to associate myself with the words of the speakers who have preceded me. With them, I desire to welcome Egypt to this Assembly.

My country is always delighted to see the League, to which it is so strongly devoted, gather in new nations to the service of its ideal of peace. We are all the more delighted to-day because we are celebrating the entry of a State for which our country has always entertained the most sincere friendship. The membership of Egypt, the meeting-place of European and Eastern civilisations, gives the world a new guarantee of peace and brings the universality of the League one step nearer.

We all of us know the glorious past of this country, the cradle of one of the most ancient civilisations of the world, and we all know, too, the efforts it has made towards progress and modern development, under the enlightened guidance of its King and Government. The decision of this country to accord its invaluable co-operation to the Geneva institution is a very fortunate one for the League.

In conclusion, I desire to repeat my Government's congratulations to the League on the valuable assistance it has thus obtained, and to tender our warmest good wishes and welcome to the Egyptian delegation.

The President :

Translation : His Excellency M. Henri Spaak, first delegate of Belgium, will address the Assembly.

M. Spaak (Belgium) :

Translation : On behalf of Belgium, I wish to associate myself wholeheartedly with all

¹ See Annex I, Communication No. 7, page 39.

² See Annex I, Communication No. 24, page 44.

that has been said here on the occasion of Egypt's admission into the League of Nations.

The event of which to-day so solemnly marks the final international consecration is a profoundly moving one. A people that has made a vast contribution to human civilisation is renewing its ancient tradition and resuming the high place in the international community to which it is entitled by virtue of its glorious past and all its generous aspirations of to-day. Belgium is happy to have contributed, as far as was in her power, to this great event by announcing, several months ago, her desire that Egypt should be admitted to the League,¹ and again, a few weeks ago, by signing the Treaty of Montreux, which satisfies Egypt's legitimate claims and will, I am convinced, herald an era of close and trustful co-operation between Egypt and the other signatories.

There have always been many intellectual and economic ties between Egypt and Belgium; relations between the two countries have always been entirely friendly; and they will be still further strengthened by what is taking place to-day.

During the past year, the League has known some difficult moments. This present hour is one consolation. The ideal of peace, understanding and international concord, for which the League stands, is so deeply rooted in the hearts of men that it withstands all disappointments and survives all setbacks.

Egypt's action in taking her place among us is an expression of hope and faith. I trust that it will revive the courage of mankind, and will mark the beginning of that recovery which millions are so anxiously awaiting.

The President :

Translation : Mr. H. T. Andrews, delegate of the Union of South Africa, will address the Assembly.

Mr. Andrews (Union of South Africa).— When the Union of South Africa learnt of the desire of the Royal Egyptian Government to become a Member of the League of Nations, it hastened, with other Member States, to convey its expression of pleasure and with them to extend a cordial invitation to Egypt to apply for membership.²

That course is happily consummated to-day, and my Government has the profoundest satisfaction in declaring its warmest support and sincerest welcome to a sister State of that vast African continent on which our common destiny lies. We feel that it is an auspicious augury for the future that one of the oldest civilisations of that ancient continent should now be united with us in contributing to the ideal of universal peace, for which this League was created, and of which to-day, more than ever, this world stands in earnest need.

All of us — and none more than the Union of South Africa — have watched with sympathetic interest the evolution of Royal Egypt in its achievement of sovereign status. The peaceful means by which that change was effected — first, through the Anglo-Egyptian Alliance and, more recently, at the Montreux Conference — have rightly earned those felicitous tributes which have been offered to our new associate.

An example of conciliatory procedure, of the promotion of international co-operation, and of the vindication of the rule of law, was afforded

us all by the new Member State in the first exercise of her sovereignty.

Those are the principles upon which our League of Nations was founded, and it is out of recognition of those attributes, as well as of recognition that Egypt as a Member of the League of Nations will afford South Africa still further opportunity for developing and consolidating existing friendly relations, that my Government expresses to the Royal Egyptian Government its warmest cordiality and felicitation upon her accession to full membership of this League and of the comity of nations.

The President :

Translation : His Excellency M. László de Velics, delegate of Hungary, will address the Assembly.

M. de Velics (Hungary) :

Translation : I should like briefly but sincerely to express the warm and sincere congratulations of Hungary to Egypt. My country cordially welcomed, with full sympathy, the invitation extended to Egypt to become a Member of the League of Nations, and was happy to be one of the initiators of that invitation.¹

Our two peoples, both essentially agricultural, have always found affinities in their attachment to their fertile and beloved native soil. The exchange of their products direct between the Egyptian seaports and our Danube ports is daily increasing in volume, thus forming a happy complement to the constantly growing exchange of the things of the mind.

I should like to be able to tell you in your own graceful tongue that Hungary hopes that this day on which you are entering our community will ever be a happy day for Egypt, and a fresh starting-point for the realisation of her hopes.

The President :

Translation : His Excellency M. D. Isidro Fabela, first delegate of the United States of Mexico, will address the Assembly.

M. Isidro Fabela (United States of Mexico) :

Translation : The Mexican Government was particularly happy to invite Egypt to put forward her candidature for membership of the League of Nations.² Now that this desire has been fulfilled, it is a great honour for me to extend a most sincere and cordial welcome to the Egyptian delegation.

Mexico, a new State with a civilisation as ancient as Egypt's, is firmly attached to her own liberty and entirely respectful of the liberty of others, and is delighted to see the representatives of one of the oldest peoples in the world collaborating with the other Members of the League.

The Mexican delegation considers that, by accepting all the rules imposed upon Members of the League by the Covenant, the Royal Government of Egypt has pointed out the only way, the true path, which must lead us to the universal reign of right. It is for the sake of that universality, and of the invaluable co-operation which we shall receive from Egypt, that we offer our most sincere and cordial welcome to the new Member of the League.

The President :

Translation : Mr. Francis T. Cremins, delegate of the Irish Free State, will address the Assembly.

Mr. Cremins (Irish Free State).— Recently, at Montreux, I had the honour, on behalf of

¹ See Annex I, Communication No. 17, page 42.

² See Annex I, Communication No. 10, page 40.

¹ See Annex I, Communication No. 18, page 42.

² See Annex I, Communication No. 21, page 43.

my Government, to do my part in assisting the representatives of a very old and cultured nation in the work which they came there to perform, a work which was carried through to such a happy termination.

Now I have a different rôle: to join in the sincere welcome which is to-day being extended to Egypt on her entry into the League. On behalf of my Government, I very warmly join the name of Ireland to that welcome.

The President :

Translation : His Excellency Dr. Max Henriquez Ureña, delegate of the Dominican Republic, will address the Assembly.

M. Henriquez Ureña (Dominican Republic) :

Translation : Through the kindness of my colleagues of Cuba and Haiti, I come to this platform as the spokesman, not of my own country alone, but also of the other West Indian Republics, to make a declaration that is very brief but very sincere.

The three nations that represent the West Indies in this Assembly — the Dominican Republic, the Republic of Cuba and the Republic of Haiti — associate themselves in my person with all that has been said concerning the admission of Egypt to the League of Nations; they are convinced that the co-operation of a nation with so illustrious a history will contribute to the peace of the world and the triumph of the principles of the Covenant.

The President :

Translation : His Excellency Dr. Enrique Ruiz Guiñazú, first delegate of the Argentine Republic, will address the Assembly.

M. Ruiz Guiñazú (Argentine Republic) :

Translation : The Argentine delegation cordially associates itself with the eloquent and sympathetic words that have been spoken from this platform.

In a spirit of solidarity, my country looks upon the entry of the Kingdom of Egypt into the League of Nations as the realisation of one of its aspirations in international life, since it strengthens the principle of universality — a traditional principle of our foreign policy.

To-day, Egypt enters the great community of nations, and this important event in her history is at the same time a realisation of a hope we have often expressed, that sovereign equality might be established amongst States. It is important that the differences between organic bodies should be mitigated by this principle of the sovereign equality of legal entities.

In view of its cordial relations with Egypt, the Argentine Republic is the more gratified by Egypt's admission to the League, because that admission constitutes a political act of immense significance for a people which, with thousands of years of history behind it, is now called to a splendid future.

The President :

Translation : His Excellency Dr. Alberto Guani, first delegate of Uruguay, will address the Assembly.

M. Guani (Uruguay) :

Translation : I am happy to be able to express here the cordial feeling of my Government and my country towards Egypt on the occasion of her entry into the League of Nations.

Even those who know nothing of geography are probably aware that Egypt and Uruguay are not exactly near neighbours. One of the great

advantages of modern international life, however, is that peoples are being brought so closely together that, in course of time, mankind will become one vast family firmly linked together in all their good fortunes and in all their sorrows.

The League, since it came into existence, has done much to contribute to this universal *rapprochement*. The frequent opportunities it provides for statesmen from every country in the world to meet together here and get to know one another, and its unceasing efforts to bring the feeling of peoples into harmony with the principles that direct its activities, are doubtless the surest conquests that it can count to the credit of its international and diplomatic action.

Let us hope that the example of Egypt — of a people which has been one of the most glorious ancestors of modern civilisation, and which, some thousands of years before the Christian era, could inscribe as a supreme expression of praise upon the tomb of one of its great rulers this epitaph: "Under his empire all the land was ploughed and sown, and justice was never violated with impunity" — let us hope that the example of such a people may be followed by other countries, and that we may thus be able the more easily to disseminate throughout the world the great ideas of right and peace which alone can ensure the happiness of the human family in the future.

The President :

Translation : His Excellency M. Julio Alvarez del Vayo, first delegate of Spain, will address the Assembly.

M. Alvarez del Vayo (Spain) :

Translation : The voice of Spain cannot remain silent when expression is being given to the profound satisfaction with which the Assembly receives Egypt as a new Member of the League of Nations — both because the Egyptian people is one with which the Spanish people have ancient ties of friendship, and also because the advent of this new State to Geneva is doubtless the best augury for the future in the dramatic crisis through which we are passing. We welcome Egypt, and look forward to her active co-operation in the spirit of the Covenant.

The President :

Translation : His Excellency M. Emeric Pflügl, delegate of Austria, will address the Assembly.

M. Pflügl (Austria) :

Translation : Austria desires, in a few brief but profoundly sincere words, to associate herself with the splendid welcome that has been extended here to Egypt as a State Member of the League of Nations. My Government has already, in an earlier note, voiced the importance it attaches to Egypt's entry into the League.¹ To-day Austria is happy to take her share in this demonstration, which marks a memorable date for an ancient country with a great future, and it welcomes this occasion, not only for the sake of Egypt herself, but also for the sake of the League.

The President :

Translation : His Excellency Mustapha El-Nahas Pasha, first delegate of Egypt, will address the Assembly.

Mustapha El-Nahas Pasha (Egypt) :

Translation : I do not wish to make a speech, but I do wish to say a few words from the depths of my heart. Egypt is proud of all the

¹ See Annex I, Communication No. 6, page 38.

splendid demonstrations of esteem and friendship of which she has been the object; they have touched her very deeply. She cannot better respond to the confidence that has been placed in her than by labouring wholeheartedly and with all her zeal, in accord with you all, in the cause of peace.

Once more, from the bottom of my heart, I thank you.

The President :

Translation : The Assembly will remember that I reserved the right to ask it to vote, after the admission of Egypt into the League of Nations, on that part of the resolution presented by the General Main Committee containing a proposal for fixing Egypt's contribution to the expenses of the League for the years 1937, 1938 and 1939.

I was anxious to await the presence of the Egyptian delegation before submitting a draft resolution based on the recommendation of the

General Main Committee. The text of the draft resolution is as follows :

“ The Assembly fixes the rate of contribution of Egypt to the expenses of the League of Nations for the years 1937, 1938 and 1939, subject to any decision which may be taken at the next ordinary session of the Assembly, at twelve units.”

If there are no observations and if no delegation wishes to speak, I shall consider the draft resolution as adopted, and in consequence, that the Assembly is agreed to fix Egypt's contribution to the expenses of the League for the years 1937, 1938 and 1939 in conformity with the proposals made by the General Main Committee.

The resolution was adopted.

THIRD PLENARY MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, May 27th, 1937, at 11 a.m.

CONTENTS :

PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTION OF JUDGES OF THE PERMANENT COURT OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE OF STATES NOT MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS BUT PARTIES TO THE STATUTE OF THE COURT :

Report of the Committee on Credentials.

ELECTION OF A JUDGE TO THE VACANCY IN THE PERMANENT COURT OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE CREATED BY THE DEATH OF BARON ROLIN-JAEQUEMYS.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE OPENING DATE OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY.

CLOSE OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY.

President : M. RUSTU ARAS.

PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTION OF JUDGES OF THE PERMANENT COURT OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE OF STATES NOT MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS BUT PARTIES TO THE STATUTE OF THE COURT :
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

The President :

Translation : The first item on the agenda is the election of a judge to the Permanent Court of International Justice to replace the late Baron Rolin-Jaequemys.

Since the representatives of States which are not members of the League of Nations but are parties to the Statute of the Court are to take part in the election in the Assembly, I have asked the Credentials Committee to be good enough to examine the powers of the representatives of Brazil and Japan to enable them to take part in the election.

I call upon the Chairman of the Credentials Committee to submit his report.

M. Guani (Uruguay), Chairman and Rapporteur of the Credentials Committee :

Translation : The Committee appointed by the Assembly to report on the credentials of delegates met again to-day, May 27th, 1937, at 10.30 a.m., to examine the powers of delegates of States that are not members of the League but are parties to the Statute of the Court, and that are entitled, in accordance with the Assembly's decision of October 3rd, 1936, and in virtue of Article 4 of the Statute of the Court, to take part in the voting for the election of judges to that Court.

The Committee examined the documents submitted by two non-member States, Brazil and Japan, communicated to it by the Secretary-General of the League.

Brazil sent full powers issued by His Excellency the President of the Republic of the United States of Brazil, to the effect that His Excellency M. José Francisco de Barros Pimentel, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of Brazil accredited to the Swiss Federal Council, is appointed to take part, in the Council of the League of Nations, in the election of a member of the Permanent Court of International Justice, and M. João Carlos Muniz, Consul-General of the United States of Brazil at Geneva, to take part in the vote in the Assembly.

The Committee is of opinion that the representatives of the United States of Brazil are duly accredited to take part in the election.

The Acting Director of the Japanese Bureau at Geneva for International Conferences communicated a radiogram from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, accrediting M. Masayuki Yokoyama and M. Yoshitane Kiuchi, and authorising them to participate respectively as representatives of the Japanese Government in the election in the Council and in the Assembly to fill the vacancy in the Permanent Court of International Justice.

The Acting Director of the Japanese Bureau requested the Committee, through the Secretary-General, to regard this radiogram as taking the place of full powers.

The Committee proposes that the Assembly should accept these powers as sufficient for

participation in the vote for the election of the judge in question.

It considers that it would be advisable to draw the attention of States thus called upon to participate in the election of a judge to the Permanent Court to the necessity for providing their representatives with powers in good and due form, in accordance with Article 5 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure.

The President :

Translation : I should like to thank the Chairman of the Credentials Committee for his report.

The conclusions of that report are that the representatives of Brazil and Japan have the necessary powers to enable them to take part in the election of a judge to the Permanent Court of International Justice.

I accordingly invite the representatives of Brazil and Japan to take their seats among us for the purpose of participating in this election, and I extend a welcome to them.

(The representatives of Brazil and Japan took their places in the Assembly.)

ELECTION OF A JUDGE TO THE VACANCY IN THE PERMANENT COURT OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE CREATED BY THE DEATH OF BARON ROLIN-JAEQUEMYS.

The President :

Translation : The delegations have received documents A.(Extr.).3.1937.V and A.(Extr.).3(a).1937.V, containing the list of candidates nominated for this election. I would remind the Members of the Assembly that the only candidates eligible are those whose names appear on this list.

The procedure to be followed for this election has been set forth in document A.(Extr.).4.1937.V, entitled "Note by the President of the Assembly on the Procedure to be followed in the Election".

Successive ballots will be held until a candidate has obtained an absolute majority of the votes cast.

The Council, which is sitting simultaneously with the Assembly, will proceed in the same manner and will communicate to me, under seal, the name of the person who has obtained the necessary majority in the Council.

I shall thereupon compare the two results, and if the two electing bodies have elected the same person, I shall declare him elected as a judge of the Permanent Court of International Justice.

If, on the other hand, the two results are not in concordance, the Assembly and the Council will immediately proceed to a further ballot.

I would remind you that any voting-paper containing more than one name will be regarded as invalid.

I call upon M. Munch, delegate of Denmark, and M. Politis, delegate of Greece, to act as tellers.

(M. Munch and M. Politis took their places on the platform as tellers.)

(The votes of the delegates were taken in turn by secret ballot.)

The President :

Translation : The result of the ballot is as follows :

Number of States voting	53
Blank or spoiled voting-papers	1
Valid voting-papers	52
Absolute majority	27

The analysis of the voting is as follows :

M. Charles DE VISSCHER	35
Sir Tej Bahadur SAPRU	6
M. R. W. ERICH	3
M. M. BOURQUIN	2
M. E. SUÁREZ	2
M. C. BEVILAQUA	1
M. H. KLAESTAD	1
M. A. N. LÉGER	1
M. V. MAÚRTUA	1

As M. Charles De Visscher has obtained an absolute majority at the first ballot, he is deemed to have been elected by the Assembly.

I have just received the following letter from the President of the Council :

"I have the honour to inform you that, in accordance with the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice, the Council has elected M. Charles De Visscher.

(Signed) QUEVEDO."

The results of the election held by the Assembly and by the Council are therefore the same. As the necessary conditions have thus been fulfilled, I declare M. De Visscher elected judge of the Permanent Court of International Justice.¹

I desire to thank the tellers for their kind assistance, and once again to extend a greeting to the representatives of Brazil and Japan.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE OPENING DATE OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The President :

Translation : The next item on the agenda is the Assembly's decision as to the date for the opening of the eighteenth ordinary session. As I have already informed the Assembly, certain delegations have suggested a postponement.

I thought it my duty to take a wide canvass of the delegations on the subject, as I did not desire to take any step which would not meet the wishes of the majority of the Assembly.

From the opinions I have received, it would appear that most of the delegations are anxious to postpone the opening of the Assembly from September 6th, the date provided by the Rules of Procedure, until September 27th, three weeks later.

I would therefore ask the Assembly whether it desires the date of the opening of the next ordinary session to be so postponed.

M. Koht (Norway) :

Translation : I am not authorised to speak on behalf of any other delegation, or any other Government, than that of Norway. I must state that we should find some difficulty in accepting this change of date.

It is the practice of Governments to arrange their programme of work for a whole year ahead, and alterations such as that proposed always disorganise their work to some extent. If it is a case of absolute necessity, we shall naturally comply and will not vote against this proposal, but I am bound to express my regret that this year again a change has been made in the date for convening the ordinary session of the Assembly.

¹ *Note by the Secretariat :* The Secretary-General subsequently received the following telegram from M. De Visscher dated May 27th, 1937 :

"Deeply touched great honour election to the Court request you communicate Assembly and Council my acceptance and sincere thanks — DE VISSCHER."

M. Munch (Denmark):

Translation: I should be glad to know what are the reasons for this change of date. If they are serious, we shall naturally be ready to accept it; otherwise, I too must point out, like the delegate of Norway, that we have arranged our work at home on the assumption that the Assembly would meet on September 6th. The Danish Parliament meets at the beginning of October, and the convening of the Assembly for the end of September would not be very convenient for us.

The President:

Translation: I proposed September 27th as the opening date to meet the desire expressed by certain delegations. As the month of August is part of the holiday season, those delegations wish to have a certain amount of time available at the beginning of September to resume contact amongst themselves and so render the work of the Assembly more effective.

Since, however, other delegations desire an earlier date, I venture to propose as a compromise September 20th.

M. Munch (Denmark):

Translation: I thank the President for having proposed a compromise, but I could have wished it had been one more favourable to us. Would it not be possible to begin the session on September 13th?

The President:

Translation: If there are no observations, I shall regard M. Munch's proposal as adopted. In those circumstances, the Assembly will open on September 13th.

M. Munch's proposal was adopted.

CLOSE OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The President:

Translation: This special session of the Assembly has accomplished its task, and, before divesting myself of my duties as President, I

should like again to express to you what I have felt in exercising the high office you conferred upon me.

You have certainly not found this session long; but my gratitude is none the less great, since I have fully appreciated the value of the honour paid to me, and I shall retain a lively memory of the token of confidence and sympathy you have given me on this occasion. My gratitude is the greater because I have had the pleasure, while acting as President, of directing your proceedings on the occasion of the admission into the League of a country sister to my own. I can do no fresh homage to that country; I have already had the opportunity of expressing my own sentiments, among those of all of you.

The words that were spoken yesterday to welcome Egypt into the League of Nations constituted a joint demonstration, the importance and significance of which I was able, from this Presidential chair, to appreciate to the full.

The arrival of this new Member among us has been hailed by all as a mark of confidence in the future of the League and of hope of better times to come, in which it will attain universality. In the progress of our common work, this present special session, like every important meeting under the ægis of the League, marks a new and important advance. Thus we go on from stage to stage in lasting confidence, which is the greater for the fresh bonds of sympathy we create among us, both as nations and as men, whenever we meet.

In this way, the League, always open, always widely open, to all who wish to unite their efforts with ours, will continue its task. That task is an immense one compared with the means available, but our faith and our common determination will enlarge the means to the measure of the task, and will pave the way for the progressive extension of our community of nations.

In conclusion, it remains for me to thank all those who have made my duties as President so easy and so pleasant. I must thank you all for your great courtesy, and I must also thank the Secretary-General and those who have collaborated with him for the assistance they have been good enough to render me.

I declare the special session of the Assembly closed.

ANNEX I.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THEIR
INVITATIONS TO THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT TO APPLY
FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

C.142.M.91.1937.VII.

1. THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT.

Baghdad, February 7th, 1937.

I have the honour to inform you that, on behalf of the Royal Iraqi Government, I have to-day addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt a cordial invitation to the Royal Egyptian Government to apply for membership to the League of Nations.

Egypt's recently announced intention to apply for membership to the League of Nations has given the Royal Iraqi Government the greatest satisfaction. Her entry into the League will be a contribution to the stability and peace of the world, and especially the Near and Middle East, which Iraq, linked with Egypt by a common tradition and civilisation, particularly welcomes. It is an event which my Government is convinced no country would wish to see postponed longer than is unavoidable. Members of the League, including Iraq, have recently emphasised once more in unequivocal terms the supreme importance which they attach to the universality of the League. This much desired end is even now engaging the attention of the Committee established by the last Assembly¹ to consider means for improving the application of the principles of the Covenant. The accession of a new Member at this time would give an impetus to the pursuit of the principal aims set forth in the Covenant — namely, international co-operation and international peace and security. Egypt's accession will be the more encouraging because of her geographical position and because she has already shown by her adhesion to the Pact of Paris her community of ideals with Members of the League, while, in the social and economic spheres, her collaboration with them has long been unstinting and untiring.

In these circumstances, the Royal Iraqi Government, conscious of the special ties which bind Iraq and Egypt together in the pursuit of similar aims and ideals, and firmly believing that these aims and ideals are to be pursued most fruitfully within the League of Nations, has felt that it was in duty bound to itself and to Iraq's fellow-Members in the League to invite the Royal Egyptian Government to take steps to seek membership in the League of Nations.

I have informed the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt that, if the Royal Egyptian Government should see fit to respond favourably to this invitation, my Government will do all in its power to secure the earliest consideration of Egypt's application for membership, and will regard it as a duty and a privilege to support that application, confident that in so doing it will not only demonstrate the unalterable friendship of Iraq for Egypt, but also perform a service to the whole of the Near and Middle East and to the world.

I have the honour to request that this communication be circulated to all Members of the League so that the way may be prepared for the earliest consideration of Egypt's application when it is made.

(Signed) NAJI AL ASIL,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

C.146.M.94.1937.VII.

2. THE SWISS GOVERNMENT.

[Translation.]

Berne, February 17th, 1937.

We beg to acknowledge receipt of document C.142.M.91.1937.VII, reproducing the letter addressed to you by the Government of Iraq on the subject of the admission of Egypt to the League of Nations.

We are happy to take note of this mark of esteem for Egypt and the Egyptian Government.

¹ See *Official Journal*, Special Supplement No. 155, pages 115 and 141.

We hasten to inform you that the Federal Council also would warmly welcome the co-operation of Egypt at Geneva and would be happy to see her accept membership of the League of Nations. Egypt's participation in the League's activities would be of the greatest value and would strengthen the principle of universality which — in our opinion — is one of the surest guarantees of the success of an institution designed to promote international co-operation.

The Swiss Chargé d'Affaires at Cairo has been instructed to make a communication in that sense to the Egyptian Government.

We should be grateful if you would bring the foregoing to the attention of the Members of the League.

(Signed) MOTTA,
Federal Political Department.

C.149.M.97.1937.VII.

3. THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT.

London, February 18th, 1937.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to inform you that he is instructing His Majesty's Ambassador at Cairo to invite, in the name of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, the Egyptian Government to submit an application for the admission of Egypt to membership of the League of Nations.

(Signed) W. R. CONNOR GREEN.

C.151.M.99.1937.VII.

4. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT.

[Translation.]

Geneva, February 20th, 1937.

I have the honour to inform you that the Greek Government has addressed to the Royal Egyptian Government, through His Majesty's Minister at Cairo, a note inviting that Government to apply for admission to the League of Nations.

(Signed) S. POLYCHRONIADIS,
Permanent Delegate.

C.152.M.100.1937.VII.

5. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT.

[Translation.]

Ankara, February 22nd, 1937.

I have the honour to inform you that I have just instructed the Turkish Minister at Cairo to acquaint the Royal Government of Egypt with the friendly desire of the Government of the Republic that Egypt should apply for admission to the League of Nations. You know how deeply we are attached to the principle of the universality of the League and how anxious we are that that great institution should firmly establish itself in its place in international life. The ties of friendship between ourselves and Egypt are also a preponderant factor in our action in approaching Cairo with a view to that friendly country occupying its proper place in the great family of nations for which the Covenant forms a common rallying-point. I therefore confidently hope that the Egyptian Government will make its application for admission to the League and that the latter will be able to record a new success for its great principles by receiving among its Members that young and valiant independent State. In order to hasten that happy event, I venture to express the hope that, without awaiting the ordinary session of the Assembly, an extraordinary session may be convened at an early date.

(Signed) Dr. Tevfik RÜSTÜ ARAS.

C.157.M.104.1937.VII.

6. THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT.

[Translation.]

Vienna, February 23rd, 1937.

The Federal Government has learnt from communications C.142.M.91.1937.VII.¹ and C.146.M.94.1937.VII.² and other sources that the Royal Egyptian Government intends to apply for Egypt's admission to the League of Nations.

¹ See Communication No. 1, page 37.

² See Communication No. 2, page 37.

Being convinced of the vital importance to the future of the League of Nations of achieving as great a degree of universality as possible, an ideal which has always been supported by Austria, and being certain of the particularly valuable assistance which can be given to the work of the League of Nations by Egypt, a country of immemorial civilisation with which Austria feels herself bound by ties of the deepest friendship, the Austrian Government warmly welcomes this intention.

The Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at Cairo has accordingly been instructed to assure the Royal Egyptian Government of the Federal Government's cordial support for the proposed application.

I request you to be good enough to communicate the foregoing to the Members of the League of Nations.

(Signed) Guido SCHMIDT,
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

C.154.M.102.1937.VII.

7. THE POLISH GOVERNMENT.

[*Translation.*]

Geneva, February 23rd, 1937.

I have the honour to inform you that the Polish Chargé d'Affaires at Cairo has to-day, under instructions from the Polish Government, handed a note to the following effect to the Royal Government of Egypt:

“ The Polish Government, learning of the Royal Egyptian Government's intention of applying for the admission of Egypt to the League of Nations, sincerely rejoices at that intention, and would be happy to give a favourable reception at the earliest possible date to such an application from the Royal Government. The Polish Government has no doubt that the presence of Egypt, an independent sovereign State, in the League of Nations would be a valuable contribution to the realisation of the idea of universality, the importance of which has many times been emphasised by the Polish Government.”

I would ask you to be good enough to communicate the above to the Members of the League.

(Signed) Tytus KOMARNICKI,
Minister Plenipotentiary,
Delegate to the League of Nations.

C.156.M.103.1937.VII.

8. THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT.

[*Translation.*]

Berne, February 24th, 1937.

The Government of the Czechoslovak Republic has learnt with great satisfaction that the Royal Egyptian Government shortly intends to apply for Egypt's admission as a Member of the League of Nations.

Egypt's entry into the League of Nations will, in my Government's opinion, constitute a fresh step towards the universality of the League, and will no doubt greatly contribute to strengthening international collaboration between the States represented at Geneva. The ideals by which Egypt is inspired in her international relations, and the perfect loyalty of her Government's activities in international life are an eloquent proof of this.

In view of the foregoing, the Czechoslovak Government has instructed its representative at Cairo to invite the Royal Egyptian Government to submit as soon as possible an application for Egypt's admission as a Member of the League of Nations, and to inform it at the same time that the Czechoslovak Government will be happy to support this application.

(Signed) KÜNZL-JIZERSKÝ,
Permanent Delegate.

C.164.M.111.1937.VII.

9. THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT.

[*Translation.*]

Belgrade, February 24th, 1937.

I have the honour to send you herewith copy of the note which I have sent to His Excellency M. Ali Serry Omar Bey, Minister of Egypt at Belgrade, cordially inviting Egypt on behalf of the Royal Yugoslav Government to become a Member of the League of Nations as soon as possible.

I should be grateful if you would communicate this note to all the Members of the League of Nations.

(Signed) Dr. M. M. STOYADINOVITCH,
Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 4200.

Belgrade, February 24th, 1937.

*To His Excellency M. Ali Serry Omar Bey,
Egyptian Minister at Belgrade, Athens.*

Monsieur le Ministre,

I have the honour to request you to communicate the following to the Royal Egyptian Government :

The Royal Yugoslav Government has learnt with extreme satisfaction that Egypt intends to apply for admission to the League of Nations. It considers that Egypt's accession to the League of Nations will constitute a fresh contribution to the common work of solidarity and international peace. This contribution will be particularly valuable to all the Members of the League of Nations, and especially to Yugoslavia, owing to the important part which Egypt is destined to play in the international community.

The Royal Yugoslav Government warmly invites Egypt to become a Member of the League of Nations as soon as possible. It is happy to assure her that it will cordially support her application for admission.

(Signed) Dr. M. M. STOYADINOVITCH,
Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

C.158.M.105.1937.VII.

10. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Geneva, February 25th, 1937.

I have the honour to inform you, at the direction of the Minister for External Affairs of the Union of South Africa, that the Union Government has addressed a note to the Royal Egyptian Government inviting that Government to submit an application for admission to membership of the League of Nations.

(Signed) H. T. ANDREWS,
*Accredited Representative of the Union
of South Africa to the League of Nations.*

C.159.M.106.1937.VII.

11. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT.

London, February 25th, 1937.

I have the honour to inform you that His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia have caused the following invitation to apply for election as a member of the League of Nations to be addressed to the Egyptian Government :

" With the knowledge that Egypt can now undertake obligations arising out of membership of the League of Nations and with realisation that she can make a material contribution to the cause of peace and welfare of mankind through international collaboration in the work of the League of Nations, His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia has sincere pleasure in inviting Egypt to apply for election as a Member of the League. In extending this invitation His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia desire to recall the long and friendly association of Egypt and Australia and to express the hope that their happy relations may be cemented and extended in the wide field of international co-operation "

(Signed) S. M. BRUCE.

C.160.M.107.1937.VII.

12. THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT.

[*Translated from the Spanish.*]

Bogotá, February 26th, 1937.

I beg to inform you that the Government of Colombia has invited the Government of Egypt to apply for admission to the League of Nations. — Jorge SOTO DEL CORRAL, *Minister for Foreign Affairs.*

C.162.M.109.1937.VII.

13. THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

London, February 26th, 1937.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to inform you that a cordial invitation has been addressed on behalf of India to the Egyptian Government to apply for membership of the League of Nations.

(Signed) W. D. TOMKINS.

C.165.M.112.1937.VII.

14. THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN.

I.

[*Translation.*]

Kabul, February 27th, 1937.

I am happy to inform you that the Royal Government of Afghanistan, as a Member of the League and an advocate of its universality, asks that an extraordinary session of the Assembly be summoned for the admission of Egypt. I have the honour to add that my Government urges that Egypt take her seat as soon as possible. — FAIZMOHD, *Afghan Minister for Foreign Affairs.*

II.

REPLY FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL.

[*Translation.*]

Geneva, March 1st, 1937.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the telegram dated February 27th by which you were good enough to inform me that the Royal Government of Afghanistan was asking for an extraordinary session of the Assembly to be convened for the admission of Egypt. As you are aware, several States Members of the League have notified me that they have approached the Royal Egyptian Government with a view to its applying for membership of the League. One of those States, the Turkish Republic, at the same time expressed the hope that an extraordinary session of the Assembly might be held at an early date to consider the question of the admission of Egypt.

The Royal Egyptian Government has not as yet applied for membership, but, when it does so, I shall, in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, notify the Members of the League of the Afghan Government's request for an extraordinary session of the Assembly to be convened for the admission of Egypt.

I am communicating the text of your telegram to the Members of the League, together with this reply.

(Signed) J. AVENOL,
Secretary-General.

C.163.M.110.1937.VII.

15. THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT.

[*Translation.*]

Teheran, February 28th, 1937.

I have the honour to inform you that I have just instructed the Iranian Minister at Cairo to intimate to the Royal Egyptian Government that in the event of its deciding to apply for admission to the League of Nations the Imperial Government of Iran would regard it as an agreeable duty to support it. In this action, my Government is prompted, not only by a desire to see the principle of the universality of the League of Nations given the fullest possible effect, but also by the cordial friendship by which the Imperial Government of Iran and the Royal Government of Egypt have always been united. I, therefore, trust that the Egyptian Government will see fit to make the necessary application and that soon all its friends among the nations will have the pleasure of seeing the young and independent Egyptian State occupy its rightful place in the international concert. — SAMIY, *Minister for Foreign Affairs.*

C.173.M.120.1937.VII.

16. THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT.

[*Translation.*]

Lisbon, February 28th, 1937.

I have the honour to inform you that the Portuguese Government has this day sent to the Royal Egyptian Government through the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs a note inviting it to apply for admission to the League of Nations.

I request you to acquaint the Members of the League of Nations with the present communication, in order that the necessary steps may be taken for Egypt's application to be examined as expeditiously as possible when it is submitted.

(Signed) Augusto DE VASCONCELLOS.

C.166.M.113.1937.VII.

17. THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT.

[*Translation.*]

Brussels, March 1st, 1937.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of document C.142.M.91.1937.VII,¹ reproducing a letter in which the Government of Iraq states that it has invited the Royal Egyptian Government to apply for admission to the League of Nations. I have also received document C.149.M.97.1937.VII,² showing that the United Kingdom Government has addressed the same invitation to the Cairo Government.

The Royal Belgian Government is happy to note the marks of goodwill thus given to Egypt and her Government. It will warmly welcome the entrance into the League of Nations of a State linked to Belgium by a traditional friendship. Egypt's co-operation will be extremely valuable. By enhancing the universal character of the League, the accession of a new member will contribute towards international co-operation and the consolidation of peace.

I should be grateful if you would inform the Members of the League that the Royal Belgian Government warmly supports the Royal Egyptian Government's application.

(Signed) P. N. SPAAK.

C.167.M.114.1937.VII.

18. THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT.

[*Translation.*]

Geneva, March 1st, 1937.

I have the honour to inform you that my Government has addressed to the Royal Egyptian Government an invitation to apply for the admission of Egypt to the League of Nations.

The Royal Hungarian Government feels sure that the presence in the League of Nations of this country with an age-old civilisation will be of great assistance in promoting the objects which this international institution has in view — namely, effective international co-operation for the purpose of maintaining world peace by means of the pacific and equitable settlement of any disputes which may arise between the nations.

Being firmly convinced of this and having regard to the friendly relations existing between the Kingdom of Egypt and the Kingdom of Hungary, the Royal Hungarian Government could not fail to congratulate the Royal Egyptian Government if the latter desired its country to participate in the work of the League. The Royal Hungarian Government has accordingly assured the Royal Egyptian Government that, should the latter make this application, it would regard it as its friendly duty to support it most cordially.

I have the honour to request you to be good enough to bring the present communication to the knowledge of the Members of the League.

(Signed) László BARTÓK,
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

¹ See Communication No. 1, page 37.

² See Communication No. 2, page 38.

C.168.M.115.1937.VII.

19. THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND.

London, March 1st, 1937.

I have the honour to inform you that, acting under instructions received from the Prime Minister of New Zealand by telegram dated February 19th, the Egyptian Government was informed that His Majesty's Government in New Zealand would welcome the admission of Egypt to the League of Nations, and invited the Egyptian Government to apply for admission.

(Signed) W. J. JORDAN,
High Commissioner for New Zealand.

C.171.M.118.1937.VII.

20. THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT.

[Translation.]

Geneva, March 2nd, 1937.

In connection with the letters from the Governments of Iraq and the United Kingdom inviting the Royal Government at Cairo to apply for the admission of Egypt to the League of Nations, I have the honour to inform you that my Government has learnt of this action with great pleasure, and has directed me to state that it would be glad if that country would apply for admission to membership of the League of Nations, and would have equal pleasure in supporting its candidature, being convinced that its presence at Geneva will effectually help to strengthen international co-operation and to bring about the universality of that co-operation.

I would ask you to bring the foregoing to the notice of the Members of the League of Nations.

(Signed) G. DE BLANCK.

C.169.M.116.1937.VII.

21. THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT.

[Translation from the Spanish.]

Geneva, March 4th, 1937.

I have the honour to inform you that yesterday my Government signified to the Royal Egyptian Government the satisfaction with which it would view Egypt's entry into the League of Nations.

In acquainting you with the foregoing on the instructions of the Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Government of the United States of Mexico, I have the honour to request you to communicate it to the Members of the League of Nations.

(Signed) Manuel TELLO,
Acting Chargé d'Affaires.

C.172.M.119.1937.VII.

22. THE CHILIAN GOVERNMENT.

[Translation from the Spanish.]

Santiago de Chile, March 5th, 1937.

I have the honour to inform you that my Government has intimated to the Egyptian Government that it will warmly support the latter's application for admission to the League of Nations. — Ross, *Minister for Foreign Affairs*.

C.174.M.121.1937.VII.

23. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

[Translation.]

Paris, March 6th, 1937.

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Republic has signified to the Egyptian Government its desire that Egypt should take her place in the League of Nations, where all countries of goodwill join their efforts for the maintenance of the peace and security which are necessary for progress.

Egypt's assistance in this task appears particularly desirable because she has already taken a distinguished part in the work of organs attached to the League, and possesses a long tradition of international co-operation. The cordial welcome which she has given to many Frenchmen, the work which they have done in the exercise of the most varied activities, and the devotion to the common weal of which they have given evidence, have largely contributed to establishing good relations between the two Governments and to fostering friendship between the two nations.

The French Government would therefore welcome Egypt's candidature to the League of Nations with particular satisfaction.

The Minister of the Republic at Cairo communicated the foregoing on March 1st to the Egyptian Government.

For the Minister for Foreign Affairs
and by delegation :

The Secretary-General,
(Signed) Alexis LÉGER, *Ambassador.*

C.178.M.124.1937.VII.

24. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

[Translation.]

Geneva, March 10th, 1937.

I am instructed by my Government to inform you that it has learnt with great satisfaction that the Royal Government of Egypt intends to apply for the admission of that country to the League of Nations.

The Chinese Government welcomes the valuable co-operation which Egypt will certainly afford to the League, and will the more gladly hail the entry of the Royal Government of Egypt into the League, inasmuch as it will still further strengthen the ties of sincere friendship between China and Egypt.

Accordingly, my Government, through its representative at Cairo, has cordially invited the Royal Government of Egypt to make application for admission at the earliest possible date, which application will have my Government's warm support.

I would ask you to be good enough to take note of this communication.

(Signed) Hoo Chi-Tsai,
*Director of the Permanent Bureau
of the Chinese Delegation to the League
of Nations.*

ANNEX II.

A.[Extr.].2.1937.

REQUEST OF THE KINGDOM OF EGYPT FOR ADMISSION TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

1. LETTER, DATED MARCH 4TH, 1937, FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF EGYPT TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL.

[Translation.]

Cairo, March 4th, 1937.

The interest which Egypt has always taken in the work of the League of Nations, as attested by her constant participation in a great many of its activities and her unremitting co-operation with certain of its organs, the Egyptian people's attachment to the high ideals of justice, concord and fraternity between all the nations for which the League stands, the friendship of the Powers, a number of whom in the past few days have extended to Egypt a pressing invitation to take her place in the family of nations, are so many reasons which impel me to lose no time in making application, in accordance with Article 1, paragraph 2, of the Covenant, for the admission of the Kingdom of Egypt to the League of Nations.

I should be grateful if you would place this request on the agenda of the earliest meeting of the Assembly. I should also be grateful if you would communicate the request as soon as possible to all the Members of the League.

(Signed) WACYF BOUTRUS GHALI,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

2. LETTER, DATED MARCH 16TH, 1937, FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF EGYPT TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL.

[*Translation.*]

Cairo, March 16th, 1937.

In my letter No. 39, dated March 4th last, I had the honour to apply for the admission of the Kingdom of Egypt to the League of Nations.

This application, made in virtue of Article 1, paragraph 2, of the Covenant, constituted in itself an undertaking to comply with the conditions contained in that article. Therefore Egypt, which has always scrupulously fulfilled the obligations which it has entered into, "has the sincere intention to observe its international obligations and will accept such regulations as may be prescribed by the League in regard to its military, naval and air forces and armaments".

I would accordingly request you to regard the present letter as an integral part of the Royal Government's application of March 4th.

(Signed) WACYF BOUTRUS GHALI,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

ANNEX III.

CONVOCAATION OF A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST OF THE KINGDOM OF EGYPT FOR ADMISSION TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

C.180.M.126.1937.

1. LETTER, DATED MARCH 11TH, 1937, FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL.

Foreign Office, S.W.1., March 11th, 1937.

With reference to your telegram of March 8th,¹ regarding the application which has been made by the Egyptian Government for admission to the League of Nations, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Eden to inform you, in confirmation of his telegram of to-day's date, that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom propose that a special session of the Assembly should be convoked to consider this question.

2. In the opinion of His Majesty's Government, a suitable date for the session might be found about the time of the meeting of the Council in May.

(Signed) Ronald CAMPBELL.

C.L.52.1937.

2. TELEGRAM, DATED MARCH 13TH, 1937, FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

I have honour refer to proposals made by certain Members of League that extraordinary session Assembly be convoked consider request Egyptian Government admission to League. United Kingdom Government in communication dated March 11th² proposes such session take place near date Council session which opens May 24th. Under Article 1, paragraph 3, Rules Procedure Assembly I request you inform me as soon as possible if you agree Assembly session begin on Wednesday, May 26th. — AVENOL, *Secretary-General*.

C.L.61.1937.

3. TELEGRAM, DATED MARCH 24TH, 1937, FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

A majority Members League having accepted proposal made in my telegram March 13th³ Special Session Assembly will open at Geneva on Wednesday May 26th eleven o'clock. — AVENOL, *Secretary-General*.

¹ Circular Letter 49.1937, transmitting to all States Members of the League of Nations the letter dated March 4th, 1937, from the Egyptian Government (see Annex II, Communication No. 1, page 44).

² See Communication No. 1, above.

³ See Communication No. 2, above.

INDEX

ABBREVIATIONS

Art.	= Article	Int.	= International
Ass.	= Assembly	Sec.-Gen.	= Secretary-General
Cttee.	= Committee	U.S.S.R.	= Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Cl.	= Council		
Govt.	= Government		

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