EIGHTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY
OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Arbitration, Security, Disarmament
and the Work of the Preparatory Commission
for the Disarmament Conference.

Resolutions adopted by the Assembly on September 26th, 1927 (morning).
(Adopted on the proposal of the Third Committee.)

Resolution No. I.

Whereas in certain countries there is at present a close connection, from the technical
point of view and from the point of view of organisation, between the requirements and
developments of civil aviation and those of military aviation;
And whereas this connection leads to difficulties in limiting air armaments without
hampering civil aviation;
The Assembly,
Declares that it is desirable for this purpose that the development of civil aviation
should be directed solely towards economic ends to the exclusion of military interests;
Recommends all States Members of the League of Nations to act as far as possible
on the recommendations made in this connection by the Preparatory Commission for the
Disarmament Conference;
And requests the Council to instruct the Advisory and Technical Committee for
Communications and Transit to consider practical methods likely to facilitate the
conclusion of the agreements between aviation undertakings in the various countries which
are referred to in these recommendations.

Resolution No. II.

The Assembly,
Having taken note of the report approved by the Committee of the Council on March
15th, 1927, with regard to the methods and regulations which would enable the Council
to take such decisions as may be necessary to enforce the obligations of the Covenant as
expeditiously as possible;
Approves this report and recommends its adoption by the Council as a valuable
guide which, without restricting the Council's liberty to decide at any moment the best
methods to be adopted in the event of any threat to peace, summarises the results of
experience, of the procedure already followed and of the studies so far carried out with a
view to the best possible organisation of its activities in case of emergency.
Resolution No. III.

The Assembly,

Being desirous of adopting all measures likely to make possible the prompt application of the system contemplated by the Covenant for the maintenance of peace, and of giving to States Members of the League of Nations a greater feeling of security;

Convinced that, in this connection, it is of the utmost importance to ensure the rapid working of the organs of the League of Nations at times of emergency;

Considering that their intervention in the shortest possible time may prove to be an essential condition for the prevention of war;

Trusting that greater facilities for the immediate operation of the machinery of the League of Nations will assist the work of disarmament;

Inspired by the spirit and provisions of the Covenant;

Reasserts that it is the obligation of the States Members of the League of Nations to facilitate by every means in their power the rapid meeting of the Council in times of emergency;

Invites the States Members of the League of Nations to take in advance all necessary measures for this purpose;

Congratulates the Council on having studied the question, to which the Assembly attaches the greatest importance, and requests the Council to continue its studies, particularly in regard to telephonic communications between the seat of the League and the different capitals, the identification of aircraft making journeys of importance to the League of Nations at times of emergency, the establishment of a radio-telegraphic station at the seat of the League, the adaptation of a landing-ground in the neighbourhood of the seat of the League, and, more generally, provisions enabling the League of Nations to be prepared at any moment to meet any emergency with the greatest possible rapidity."

Resolution No. IV.

The Assembly,

Having taken note of the plan submitted to the Council by the Financial Committee with regard to the Finnish Government's proposal for ensuring financial aid to any State victim of aggression;

Being convinced of the need for a system of financial aid for contributing to the organisation of security, which is an indispensable preliminary to general disarmament:

Requests the Council to continue its examination of the plan, which the Committee declares to be necessary, and to prepare and complete it with a view to its final adoption either by a Disarmament Conference or by a special Conference to be convened for the purpose.

The Assembly suggests to the Council that it would be advisable to submit the plan referred to, and the documents relating to Article 16 prepared by the Legal Section of the Secretariat, the observations submitted by the several Governments and the Minutes of the discussions in the Third Committee on this subject, to the Committee which it proposes to appoint in pursuance of its resolution relative to arbitration, security and disarmament.

Resolution No. V.

The Assembly,

Noting the progress achieved in the technical sphere by the Preparatory Disarmament Commission and by the Committee of the Council towards enabling the Council to be rapidly convened and to take decisions in case of emergency;

Being anxious to bring about the political conditions calculated to assure the success of the work of disarmament;

Being convinced that the principal condition of this success is that every State should be sure of not having to provide unaided for its security by means of its own armaments and should be able to rely also on the organised collective action of the League of Nations;

Affirming that such action should aim chiefly at forestalling or arresting any resort to war and if need be at effectively protecting any State victim of an aggression;

Being convinced that the burdens which may thereby be imposed on the different States will be the more readily accepted by them in proportion as

(a) They are shared in practice by a greater number of States;

(b) The individual obligations of States have been more clearly defined and limited;

1. Recommends the progressive extension of arbitration by means of special or collective agreements, including agreements between States Members and non-Members
of the League of Nations, so as to extend to all countries the mutual confidence essential to the complete success of the Conference on the Limitation and Reduction of Armaments;

2. Recalls its resolution of September 24th, 1926, which reads as follows:
   "Being desirous that the investigations, in regard to which the Assembly itself took the initiative in its resolution of September 25th, 1925, should be brought to a successful conclusion as soon as possible, it requests the Council to call upon the Preparatory Commission to take steps to hasten the completion of the technical work and thus be able to draw up, at the beginning of next year, the programme for a Conference on the Limitation and Reduction of Armaments corresponding to existing conditions in regard to regional and general security, and it asks the Council to convene this Conference before the eighth ordinary session of the Assembly, unless material difficulties render this impossible."

Accordingly requests the Council to urge the Preparatory Commission to hasten the completion of its technical work and to convene the Conference on the Limitation and Reduction of Armaments immediately this work has been completed;

3. Requests the Council to give the Preparatory Commission, whose task will not be confined to the preparation of an initial Conference on the limitation and reduction of armaments, and whose work must continue until the final goal has been achieved, the necessary instructions for the creation without delay of a Committee consisting of representatives of all the States which have seats on the Commission and are Members of the League of Nations, other States represented on the Commission being invited to sit on it if they so desire.

This Committee would be placed at the Commission's disposal and its duty would be to consider, on the lines indicated by the Commission, the measures capable of giving all States the guarantees of arbitration and security necessary to enable them to fix the level of their armaments at the lowest possible figures in an international disarmament agreement.

The Assembly considers that these measures should be sought:

- In action by the League of Nations with a view to promoting, generalising, and co-ordinating special or collective agreements on arbitration and security;

- In the systematic preparation of the machinery to be employed by the organs of the League of Nations with a view to enabling the Members of the League to perform their obligations under the various articles of the Covenant;

- In agreements which the States Members of the League may conclude among themselves, irrespective of their obligations under the Covenant, with a view to making their commitments proportionate to the degree of solidarity of a geographical or other nature existing between them and other States;

And, further, in an invitation from the Council to the several States to inform it of the measures which they would be prepared to take, irrespective of their obligations under the Covenant, to support the Council's decisions or recommendations in the event of a conflict breaking out in a given region, each State indicating that, in a particular case, either all its forces, or a certain part of its military, naval or air forces, could forthwith intervene in the conflict to support the Council's decisions or recommendations.