LEAGUE OF NATIONS

CONFERENCE FOR THE REDUCTION AND LIMITATION OF ARMAMENTS

ARMAMENTS TRUCE ¹
(RENEWAL)

Note by the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General has the honour to communicate to the Governments invited to participate in the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments a copy of the letter, dated August 4th, 1932, from the President of the Conference to all the participating States regarding the renewal for a period of four months, as from November 1st, 1932, of the Armaments Truce proposed by the Assembly of the League of Nations on September 29th, 1931.

LETTER, DATED AUGUST 4TH, 1932, FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE FOR THE REDUCTION AND LIMITATION OF ARMAMENTS, TO ALL THE STATES INVITED TO THE CONFERENCE.

At its meeting on July 23rd, the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"In order to ensure that, pending the resumption of the meetings of the General Commission and during the second phase of its work, no steps shall be initiated by any Power which might prejudice the preparation of the General Disarmament Convention, the Conference decides to recommend to the Governments to renew for a period of four months from November 1st, 1932, the truce provided for by the resolution of the Assembly of the League of Nations of September 29th, 1931."

I have the honour to communicate to you this resolution (document Conf.D.137), and to request you to inform me as soon as you are able to do so—before November 1st, if possible—whether your Government is prepared, in accordance with this resolution, to agree to the renewal, for a period of four months from November 1st, 1932, of the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly of the League of Nations on September 29th, 1931.

I enclose the Minutes of the meeting of the Conference held on July 23rd and document C.019.M.484.1931.IX (Conf.D.35), which contains the reports and correspondence relating to the truce instituted by the 1931 Assembly.

(Signed) A. HENDERSON,
President of the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments.


The following Governments have signified their acceptance of the proposal: Afghanistan, Union of South Africa, Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, United Kingdom, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, United States of America, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, India, Irish Free State, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, New Zealand, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Roumania, Siam, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.
REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN.

Rome, October 18th, 1932.

Owing to special circumstances, the Afghan Government has not been able, so far, to bring the country's armaments up to the standard required by the national defence.

Although it would be very difficult for the Government of Afghanistan to accept the armaments truce, it would be ready to consider the possibility of taking a decision on the matter provided that:

1. All the States, and especially the neighbouring countries, accept the truce;
2. The truce will not prevent the current programmes being carried out;
3. In case any unforeseen circumstances compel Afghanistan to increase its armaments, the Afghan Government will not be bound to observe the obligations of the truce;
4. The present defensive forces of Afghanistan being far from complete, as stated above, these forces shall not be considered as a basis for discussion during the debates of the Conference.

(Signed) A. Husein Aziz.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Pretoria, September 12th, 1932.

I have the honour to state that His Majesty's Government in the Union of South Africa is prepared to agree to the renewal, for a period of four months as from November 1st, 1932, of the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly of the League of Nations on September 29th, 1931.

(Signed) B. M. Hertzog,
Minister for External Affairs.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT.

Tirana, October 10th, 1932.

I am happy to notify you that the Royal Albanian Government has agreed to this renewal of the truce.

(Signed) H. Vrioni,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.


I have the honour to inform you that His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia is prepared to agree to the renewal of the armaments truce proposed by the twelfth Assembly for a period of four months as from November 1st, 1932.

This agreement of the Commonwealth Government will be subject to the same conditions as its acceptance of the armaments truce on October 30th, 1931 (document C.919.M.484.1931.IX (Conf. D.35)).

(Signed) J. G. Latham,
Minister for External Affairs.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT.

Vienna, September 29th, 1932.

I have the honour to inform you that the Federal Government is prepared to renew for four months the obligations arising out of its declaration of October 28th, 1931, addressed to the Secretary-General of the League.

(Signed) Dolfuss,
Federal Chancellor.
COMMUNICATION FROM THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT.

Brussels, October 15th, 1932.

I have the honour to inform you that the Belgian Government agrees to renew this truce for a period of four months as from November 1st, 1932, according to the terms of agreement stated in my letter of October 30th, 1931, addressed to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

The letter in question refers to the resolution of the Assembly of September 29th, 1931, and to the report of the Third Committee, according to which the truce is not incompatible with the normal establishment of effective provided for by the military statutes in force nor with the execution of the normal programmes of upkeep and renewal of land and air material and the corresponding supplies, nor with the execution of work of defence in progress.

(Signed) Hymans.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT.

London, September 26th, 1932.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Simon to state that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom accede to the recommendation of the General Commission of the Disarmament Conference at its meeting of July 23rd that the armaments truce provided for by the resolution of the Assembly of September 29th, 1931, should be renewed for a period of four months from November 1st, 1932.

In acceding to this recommendation, I am to observe that His Majesty's Government adhere to the interpretation of the truce set forth in the passage from the report of the Third Committee of the twelfth Assembly which was quoted in paragraph 2 of Foreign Office letter of October 29th, 1931, accepting the truce, and to the reservation contained in paragraph 3 of the same letter to the effect that should His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom find themselves compelled, as the result of unforeseen circumstances, to suspend the operation of their undertaking under the truce, they will immediately notify the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

(Signed) C. Howard Smith.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT.

Sofia, September 26th, 1932.

I have the honour to inform you that the Bulgarian Government agrees to the renewal, for a period of four months from November 1st, 1932, of the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly of the League of Nations on September 29th, 1931.

As a disarmed country deeply devoted to the cause of peace, Bulgaria is prepared to adhere to any measure likely to bring about the effective reduction of the armaments of all States.

(Signed) N. Mouchanoff,
President of the Council of Ministers, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Religion.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

Ottawa, August 26th, 1932.

I have the honour to state that His Majesty's Government in Canada is prepared, in accordance with this resolution, to agree to the renewal of this truce for a period of four months as from November 1st, 1932.

For the Secretary of State for External Affairs:

(Signed) W. H. Walker.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHILIAN GOVERNMENT.

Geneva, October 18th, 1932.

I am instructed by my Government to inform you that the Government of Chile accepts the said renewal.

(Signed) Valdés-Mendeville.
COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.


I am now instructed by my Government to inform you that, although it is in favour of the proposed renewal of the armaments truce, yet its attitude towards this question, which was expressed by me, as its representative, before the General Commission on July 23rd last, remains unchanged—that is to say, that my Government, to its regret, is unable to pledge itself in any manner or form to disarmament, unless and until the Sino-Japanese dispute which is before the League has been solved in accordance with the principles of the League to our satisfaction.

(Signed) W. W. Yen.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT.

Bogotá, September 2nd, 1932.

I beg to inform you that the Colombian Government, in accordance with its sincerely pacific policy and the friendly and cordial relations which it cultivates with all Governments and all peoples, has pleasure in accepting the renewal in question.

(Signed) R. Urdaneta Arbelaez.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA.

San José, August 29th, 1932.

The Government of Costa Rica is prepared to agree to the renewal for a period of four months from November 1st, 1932, of the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly of the League of Nations on September 29th, 1931.

(Signed) Leonidas Pacheco.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT.

Havana, September 30th, 1932.

I beg to inform you that the Government of the Republic has decided to accept this extension for four months as from November 1st next.

(Signed) Orestes Ferrara,
Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DANISH GOVERNMENT.

Geneva, August 20th, 1932.

I have the honour to inform you, on behalf of my Government, that the latter is prepared, in accordance with this resolution, to accept the said renewal.

(Signed) E. F. Pedersen.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

Cairo, September 14th, 1932.

I have the honour to inform you that the Egyptian Government is prepared to renew, for a period of four months, as from November 1st, 1932, the armaments truce previously decided upon, in conformity with the recommendation adopted by the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments. The Egyptian Government is convinced that the success of the Conference will be considerably promoted by a general undertaking on the part of all the States invited to the Conference to refrain from increasing their armaments for the duration of the Conference.

(Signed) Abdel Fattah Yehia Pasha,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.
COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT.

Madrid, September 7th, 1932.

[Telegram]: Spanish Government agrees prolongation armaments truce according indication telegram October 30th last. — ZULUETA, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE ESTONIAN GOVERNMENT.

Tallinn, August 25th, 1932.

I have the honour to inform you that the Estonian Government accepts the renewal for a period of four months as from November 1st, 1932, of the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly of the League of Nations on September 29th, 1931.

(Signed) M. PUNG.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Geneva, October 22nd, 1932.

I am instructed by my Government to inform you that it agrees to the continuance of the truce, for a period of four months, provided that like action is taken by the other principal military and naval powers, and subject to the understanding contained in its note of October 29th, 1931, to the Secretary-General of the League—namely, "that the proposed truce shall not apply to construction which had begun or for which contracts had been let prior to its entry into force".

(Signed) Hugh WILSON.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT.

Helsinki, September 21st, 1932.

I hasten to inform you that the Finnish Government is prepared to agree to the renewal for a period of four months as from November 1st, 1932, of the armaments truce.

(Signed) A. S. YRJÖ-KOSKINEN.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

Paris, October 4th, 1932.

I have the honour to inform you that if the proposed truce is observed by the countries neighbouring on France, the Government of the French Republic agrees to observe it for a period of four months as from November 1st, 1932, in accordance with the terms of the resolution and under the conditions laid down in the report adopted on September 29th, 1931, by the Assembly of the League of Nations.

(Signed) HERRIOT.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE GREEK GOVERNMENT.

Geneva, September 13th, 1932.

The Hellenic Government agrees to the renewal for a period of four months as from November 1st, 1932, of the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly on September 29th, 1931.

This acceptance should be interpreted in the sense of communication No. 2598/IX/2 sent to you by this delegation on November 11th last.

(Signed) CONTOUMAS,
Chargé d'Affaires.
COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA.

Guatemala, September 6th, 1932.

The Government of Guatemala approves the reasons explained by the Conference and therefore agrees to renew for a period of four months from November 1st, 1932, the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly of the League of Nations on September 29th, 1931.

(Signed) Skinner Klee.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI.

Port-au-Prince, September 23rd, 1932.

The Haitian Government agrees to the renewal of the truce for the period stated and under the conditions stated in the letter addressed by the Haitian Secretary of State for Foreign Relations to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations on November 26th, 1931.

(Signed) A. Blanchet.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT.


The Royal Hungarian Government agrees to the recommendation of the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments, adopted at its meeting on July 23rd last, to renew, for a period of four months as from November 1st, 1932, the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly of the League of Nations on September 29th, 1931, on the understanding that this truce should not, in its opinion, signify the postponement of the reduction of armaments and still less constitute a final solution of the question of the reduction of armaments.

(Signed) Pelényi, Hungarian Minister.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.


I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to notify the accession of India to the recommendation on the same conditions as were stated in my letter of November 3rd, 1931, notifying the Government of India's acceptance of the original truce.

(Signed) M. C. Seton.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE IRISH FREE STATE GOVERNMENT.

Geneva, October 31st, 1932.

I am instructed to communicate to you the declaration of my Government that it accepts the renewal for a period of four months, subject to the interpretation of the truce set out in the final sentence of paragraph 5 and in paragraph 6 of Section 5, Part I, of the report of the Third Committee to the twelfth session of the Assembly.

(Signed) Sean Lester, Permanent Delegate.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT.

Rome, August 19th, 1932.

The Royal Government, from which the original initiative came last year, is happy to state that it is prepared to prolong for four months the obligations deriving therefrom, provided that the other Governments also accept the General Conference's recommendation.

(Signed) Suvich.
COMMUNICATION FROM THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.

Geneva, October 19th, 1932.

The Japanese Government is prepared to accept the extension of the armaments truce provided for in a resolution of July 23rd, 1932, of the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments for a period of four months from November 1st, 1932.

It remains expressly understood, however, that, in accepting this extension, the Japanese Government maintains the views and the condition stated in its reply of October 29th, 1931, to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations on the subject of the armaments truce—namely, that the truce must not affect in any way either the improvement in the organisation and equipment of the army, which will be carried out within the limits of the expenditure already voted, or the execution of the programme approved by Parliament. Further, the Japanese Government makes its undertaking in regard to the truce conditional on its neighbours, and especially those not Members of the League of Nations, being bound by the same obligations as itself.

(Signed) Sato,

Japanese Delegate to the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE LATVIAN GOVERNMENT.

Riga, August 22nd, 1932.

The Latvian Government is entirely prepared to accept the renewal of the truce for the period indicated in the above-mentioned resolution.

(Signed) Ch. Zarine.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE LITHUANIAN GOVERNMENT.

[Kovno, November 10th, 1932.]

With reference to your letter No. C.L.110.1932.IX, Conf.D./C.L.2, of August 4th, 1932, in which you were good enough to communicate the text of the resolution adopted by the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments dated July 23rd, 1932, recommending Governments to renew for a period of four months the truce proposed by the resolution of the League Assembly on September 29th, 1931, I have honour to inform you that Lithuania agrees to this renewal subject to the same conditions as those mentioned in my letter of October 29th, 1931, notifying the acceptance by the Lithuanian Government of the actual truce. — ZauNius.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA.

Geneva, October 24th, 1932.

My Government agrees to renew, for a period of four months from November 1st, 1932, the truce provided for in the resolution of the League Assembly dated September 29th, 1931.

(Signed) A. Sottile,

Envoy Extraordinary and Minister
Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate to the League of Nations and International Labour Office.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT.

Mexico City, October 13th, 1932.

The Mexican Government, which is desirous of helping to create a world opinion strong enough to ensure the success of the Disarmament Conference, accepts the proposed truce on the following conditions:

I. That the truce does not involve a suspension of the programme drawn up by the Mexican Government for the normal execution of enactments relating to the re-organisation of effective.

II. That it does not affect the measures contemplated for the upkeep and renewal of land, naval and air material.

III. That the army receives its normal supplies in accordance with its requirements.

I would explain that the scope of the programmes under which the measures referred to in the foregoing conditions will be carried out is not large enough to make any appreciable change in the present state of the army.

(Signed) Manuel C. Téllez.
COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA.

Managua, September 2nd, 1932.

The Government of Nicaragua has no objection to accepting the proposed renewal for four months from November 1st, 1931.

(Signed) O. Somoza.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT.

Berne, August 27th, 1932.

The Norwegian Government accepts the renewal, for a period of four months from November 1st, 1932, of the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly of the League of Nations on September 29th, 1931.

(Signed) H. Birkeland,
Permanent Delegate of Norway accredited to the League of Nations.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT.

Wellington, October 18th, 1932.

[Telegram.] New Zealand Government is happy to renew, for a period of four months from November 1st, 1932, the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly on September 29th, 1931.—Forbes.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA.

Panama, October 4th, 1932.

The Panama Government is prepared to accept the truce in question as a further proof of the desire which it has always shown to co-operate with the League in its work on behalf of peace.

(Signed) J. D. Arosemena,
Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT.

The Hague, September 9th, 1932.

The Netherlands Government is prepared, in conformity with the resolution adopted on July 23rd last by the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments, to agree to the renewal for a period of four months from November 1st, 1932, of the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly of the League of Nations on September 29th, 1931.

(Signed) Beelaerts van Blokland.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE POLISH GOVERNMENT.

Warsaw, September 14th, 1932.

The Polish Government has decided to agree to the renewal of the truce, conceived in the spirit of the report attached to the twelfth Assembly’s resolution, for a further period of four months as from November 1st, 1932. This acceptance will become final if all the other Governments represented at the Conference also give their consent in the same conditions to the renewal of the truce.

(Signed) Auguste Zaleski,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT.


My Government agrees to renew the truce provided for by the resolution of the Assembly of the League of Nations of September 29th, 1931, for a period of four months from November 1st, 1932, in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments at its meeting on July 23rd, 1932.
The acceptance of this further truce by the Government of the Republic is to be interpreted in the same sense as the previous acceptance—i.e., on the same conditions and according to the exact terms of this delegation’s note of November 2nd, 1931.

(Signed) A. N. Ferraz de Andrade,
Head of the Portuguese Bureau accredited to the League of Nations.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE ROUMANIAN GOVERNMENT.
The Roumanian Government agrees to such extension to a further period of four months on the conditions on which it accepted the principle of the truce by its note of October 28th, 1931.

(Signed) AntoniaDE.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SIAMESE GOVERNMENT.
Bangkok, September 28th, 1932.
His Majesty’s Government agrees to adopt the above recommendation.

(Signed) Phya SrIvisar,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT.
Stockholm, September 21st, 1932.
His Majesty’s Government agrees to this prolongation of the truce, understood in the sense indicated in my letter to the Secretary-General of the League dated October 30th, 1931, regarding the original armaments truce.

(Signed) Ramel.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SWISS GOVERNMENT.
Berne, September 9th, 1932.
The Federal Council agrees, on the same conditions as were stated in our letter of October 27th, 1931, to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, to the renewal of the truce for a period of four months from November 1st, 1932.

(Signed) Motta,
Federal Political Department.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT.
Prague, September 14th, 1932.
The Czechoslovak Government agrees to the renewal of the armaments truce as recommended in the Conference’s resolution of July 23rd last.

(Signed) Eduard Beneš.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT.
As I had the honour to inform you in my letter of November 27th, 1931, the Grand National Assembly is the only authority empowered under the Constitution to take a final decision in regard to the country’s armaments.
I therefore have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Republic agrees to the renewal of the armaments truce for a further period of four months from November 1st, 1932.

(Signed) Dr. Tevfik Rüstü.
COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS.

Moscow, October 22nd, 1932.

I have the honour to inform you that the Government delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Disarmament Conference having voted in favour of the resolution in question, the Soviet Government agrees to the proposed extension of the truce on the terms and conditions set forth in my telegram of October 21st, 1931.

(Signed) M. Litvinoff.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT.

Caracas, September 7th, 1932.

The Venezuelan Government has great pleasure in accepting the renewal of the armaments truce for a period of four months as from November 1st of the current year.

(Signed) P. Itriago Chacin.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT.

Belgrade, August 9th, 1932.

I hasten to communicate to you the Royal Government’s declaration that it accepts the renewal for a period of four months, interpreting this new truce in the same sense as that in which it acceded to the initial armaments truce from November 1st, 1931, to October 31st, 1932.

(Signed) B. Yevtitch,

Minister for Foreign Affairs.