LEAGUE OF NATIONS

CONFERENCE FOR THE REDUCTION AND LIMITATION OF ARMAMENTS

PUBLICITY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE EXPENDITURE

DRAFT CONVENTION

prepared by the Technical Committee of the National Defence Expenditure Commission

Addendum to the Preliminary Note.

Add at the end of the Note as given on page 5 the following paragraph:

The Technical Committee feels bound to draw the General Commission's attention to the fact that, in accordance with the general provisions of the Convention, it has provided in the articles and instructions, the drafting of which was entrusted to it, stipulations of a special character ensuring from a technical standpoint reciprocity of the obligations contracted by States in regard to the publicity of national defence expenditure.

Indeed, notwithstanding the diversity of institutions and particularly of the rules of public accountancy, the Committee considers that the differences between one country and another will not prevent the satisfactory operation of the system of publicity which it has devised, and that the conditions of the application of this publicity laid down in the articles of the Convention actually guarantee, having regard to the practical aim in view, the reciprocity of the obligations to be undertaken by States.

The Technical Committee is aware that the final decisions which will be taken by the General Commission in other spheres may necessitate amendments in certain parts of the attached instruments concerning the publicity of national defence expenditure. It notes, in particular, that the General Commission has not yet taken any decision regarding the police forces and similar formations which are covered by Article 12 of the United Kingdom draft Convention and which might have to be included in the calculation of effectives. The Committee draws attention to the possible necessity, in the light of the decisions taken by the General Commission in this sphere, of introducing certain amendments into the texts it proposes.