LEAGUE OF NATIONS

CONFERENCE FOR THE REDUCTION AND LIMITATION OF ARMAMENTS

PUBLICITY FOR NATIONAL DEFENCE EXPENDITURE

ACTION TAKEN ON THE BUREAU'S RESOLUTION OF MAY 31st, 1937.

Note by the Secretary-General:

With reference to the resolution adopted by the Bureau on May 31st, 1937, and further to document Conf.D.178, the Secretary-General has the honour to communicate to Members of the Bureau and to all Governments represented at the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments the replies to Circular Letter Conf.D./C.L.16, dated June 19th, 1937, received from the following Governments:

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The Brazilian Government has acknowledged receipt of the Circular Letter.

Union of South Africa

Pretoria, August 20th, 1937.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the Acting Secretary-General's letter No. Conf.D./C.L.16 of June 19th, 1937 on the subject of the resolution adopted by the Bureau of the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments on May 31st, 1937, and to say that the Government of the Union of South Africa is prepared, in principle, to accept a system of publicity based on the draft Convention contained in document Conf.D./C.G.160(1).

While agreeing in principle to the basis laid down in the draft Convention, the Government of the Union of South Africa hopes that it will be found possible to simplify to some extent the form in which the figures of expenditure are required to be furnished so as to reduce the volume of work involved in their compilation.

(Signed) J. B. M. HERTZOG,
Minister of External Affairs.

Estonia

Geneva, September 17th, 1937.

[Translation.]

By letter Conf.D./C.L.16 of June 19th, 1937, you requested an opinion from the Estonian Government concerning publicity of national defence expenditure, on the basis of an international Convention of which a draft has been prepared by the Technical Committee of the National Defence Expenditure Commission.
I have the honour to inform you in reply that the Estonian Government has examined with the closest attention the proposals contained in the draft Convention, and that it is determined to contribute to its utmost to the effort at international understanding initiated by the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments.

The Estonian Government is accordingly fully prepared to accept in principle a system of publicity of national defence expenditure, provided such a system were similarly adopted by the majority of States, and subject to such observations as it might subsequently be led to bring forward in connection with the provisions of the contemplated draft Convention. The Estonian Government further agrees to the suggestion put before the Bureau of the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments as regards the setting up of an Organ for the supervision and co-ordination of the information supplied by Governments.

(Signed) A. SCHMIDT.

Greece

Geneva, September 17th, 1937.

[Translation.]

With reference to your letter of June 19th, 1937 (Conf.D./C.L.16), I have the honour to inform you that the Greek Government is prepared, in principle, to agree to a system of publicity for national defence expenditure, provided that such system is accepted by other Governments generally.

(Signed) S. POLYCHRONIADIS,
Permanent Delegate.