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 documents Conf.D.178, 178(a) and 178(b), 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:

Canada
Colombia
Switzerland
Turkey

Canada.


In reply to your letter of June 19th, 1937, Conf.D./C.L.16, I have the honour to inform you that the Canadian Government is prepared to accept in principle a system of publicity of national defence expenditure based on the draft Convention prepared by the Technical Committee of the National Defence Expenditure Commission, provided such a system is also accepted by the principal Powers.

(Signed) H. H. Wrong.

Colombia.

Bogotá, January 5th, 1938.

I have the honour to refer to your communications Conf.D./C.L.6 and 17 of June 19th and October 23rd, 1937, informing me of the resolutions adopted by the Bureau of the Conference for the Limitation of Armaments and the Assembly on May 31st and September 30th, 1937, respectively, with regard to the limitation of armaments.

In view of the traditional policy of Colombia, the problem of armaments does not arise in this country.

(Signed) Alfredo Michelsen,
Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Head of Service.

1 These documents gave the replies from the following countries: Union of South Africa, Belgium, Brazil, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, India, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Roumania, Spain, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America.

2 Note by the Secretariat:
The remainder of the letter, referring exclusively to the supervision of the manufacture of and trade in arms, is reproduced in document Conf.D.183.
Switzerland.

Berne, March 9th, 1938.

By letter of June 19th, 1937, the Secretariat of the League of Nations was good enough to communicate to us the resolution adopted on May 1st, 1937, by the Bureau of the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments in regard to the draft Convention on publicity of national defence expenditure and the national supervision of the manufacture of and trade in arms.

In the meantime, the two questions were considered in the League of Nations Assembly, and by letter of October 23rd, 1937, the Secretariat communicated to us the resolution adopted on this subject on September 30th, requesting us in particular to inform it of any action taken in Switzerland with a view to the “effective supervision of the manufacture of and trade in arms, ammunition and implements of war”.

As you are aware, the Swiss delegation associated itself in the Assembly with the draft resolution submitted by the delegations of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden recommending the conclusion of an international convention on the publicity of national defence expenditure and the establishment in the various countries of national supervision over the manufacture of and trade in arms.

As regards the problem of publicity, the Swiss delegation pointed out that in its view a solution would hardly be possible without the co-operation of the States principally concerned.

The Federal authorities cannot but confirm this view.

(Signed) Motta,
Federal Political Department.

Turkey.

Ankara, February 8th, 1938.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letters of June 19th, 1937 (Conf.D./C.L.16), and October 23rd, 1937 (Conf.D./C.L.17), relating to the conclusion of an international convention on the publicity of national defence expenditure and to the adoption of internal measures with a view to the effective supervision of the manufacture of and trade in arms, ammunition and implements of war.

I beg to inform you in reply that Turkey finds herself unable, in spite of her keen wishes in the matter, to accede to a convention of this description while the scheme of publicity for national defence expenditure, which is the foundation of the convention, is not applied throughout the world or, at the least, throughout Europe.

For the Minister a.i.:

(Signed) N. Menemenioglu,
Secretary-General.

Note by the Secretariat:
The remainder of the letter, referring exclusively to the supervision of the manufacture of and trade in arms, is reproduced in document Conf.D.183.