LEAGUE OF NATIONS

PARTICULARS WITH REGARD TO THE POSITION OF ARMAMENTS
IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES

32*. COMMUNICATION FROM THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT

Note by the Secretary-General:

At the request of the Hungarian Government, the Secretary-General has the honour to communicate to the Governments invited to the Disarmament Conference a letter, dated September 23rd, 1931, from the Hungarian Resident Minister, giving detailed information on the position of armaments in his country.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HUNGARIAN RESIDENT MINISTER TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Geneva, September 23rd, 1931.

With reference to your Circular Letter 124.1931.IX, dated June 13th last, I have the honour to transmit, in accordance with the models adopted by the Council at its meeting on May 23rd last, particulars with regard to the position of Hungarian armaments and expenditure on those armaments. I should be very much obliged if you would be good enough to communicate my letter immediately to all States Members of the League and to the non-member States invited to take part in the Disarmament Conference.

In transmitting my Government’s reply, I may note that, in the Hungarian Government’s view, the particulars furnished in accordance with the models adopted by the Council give only an inadequate idea of the degree of armament of the various States, since the most important data, which might throw light on the respective forces of armies when mobilised, are not shown.

I have the honour to point out also that the fact of having furnished particulars on this basis must not be regarded as implying the acceptance by Hungary of the draft Convention framed by the Preparatory Commission.

The Hungarian Government does not consider that the present arbitrary state of armaments can be taken as a sound starting-point for disarmament; in its opinion the basis taken should be the equal right of nations to security. If the Disarmament Conference were to take as a basis the present position of armaments, it would at best have to content itself with an apparent and artificial result, but would certainly not succeed in effecting any notable alleviation of the burden of armaments, a burden which is becoming increasingly oppressive.

* This figure indicates that thirty-two documents in regard to the position of the armaments in the different countries have already been published.
A. EFFECTIVES.

Explanatory Notes.

(1) The Hungarian armed forces consist solely of land forces; Hungary does not possess any naval or air forces.

(2) Hungary does not possess any colonies, and the whole of her army is thus stationed in the home country.

(3) The police, gendarmerie, river guard and Customs guard do not constitute formations organised on a military basis; they cannot be employed for military purposes.

(4) In view of the above, only No. 1 of the tables annexed to Article 30 of the draft Convention need be filled in for Hungary.

(5) The Hungarian army is recruited by voluntary enlistment and the table annexed to Chapter B of Part I is therefore nugatory.

Table I.

Under the Treaty of Trianon, the land armed forces of Hungary are as follows:

Total effectives; 35,000, including 1,750 officers.

Note:

(a) The Hungarian army possesses no reserves and the peace-time effectives are therefore the same as the effectives of the army when mobilised.

(b) The Hungarian army has to be devoted exclusively to the maintenance of order within the territory of Hungary and to the control of her frontiers (Article 104, Treaty of Trianon), so that it is not possible for it to perform the duties devolving upon it under paragraph 1 of Article 8 and Article 10 of the League Covenant.

B. WAR MATERIAL.

Hungary possesses no naval or air formations; the tables annexed to Article 36 and to Chapter B of Part II are therefore nugatory.

As regards war material for land armaments, see hereunder the table concerning budgetary expenditure.

C. BUDGET.

The following table, drawn up in accordance with the model prepared by the Committee of Experts on Budgetary Questions, shows the expenditure on the maintenance of the Hungarian Army for the budgetary year 1929-30. From a comparison of the total under Heads I to III with the total for Head IV, it is manifest that the maintenance of the voluntary army constitutes a very heavy burden for Hungary. The expenditure on the maintenance of the army (Heads I to III) is 91.8 per cent of the total budget of the Ministry of National Defence, the percentage remaining over for war material (Head IV) amounting to only 8.2 per cent of that budget.
Errata to the communication from the Hungarian Government.

(Document C.914. M.480, 1931. IX. (Conf. D.34.).)

Page 3 (Table B)

1) Chapter E: For "35,536,849.65" read "36,546,849.65"

2) Chapter F: For "9,348,739.79" read "9,848,739.79"

3) Total. Heads I to III: For "110,179,529.15" read "110,689,529.15"

4) Chapter M: For "6,117,659.39" read "6,117,667.03"

5) Total. Head IV: For "11,420,515.91" read "11,420,523.55"

6) Statement totals: For "121,600,045.06" read "122,110,052.70"