LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Supplementary Report on the Work of the League since the Last Session of the Assembly.
The present Supplementary Report summarises the work of the fifty-fifth session of the Council, June 1929, and such Conferences and Committees of the League as have met since the issue of the General Report to the Assembly (document A.6.1929).

The members of the Council met at Madrid on June 6th, 1929. They sat first as a Committee of the Council to consider the question of the protection of minorities as submitted in the proposals of the representatives of Canada and Germany. The Council devoted considerable time to the consideration of this question and of a number of individual cases relating to minorities, and it finally adopted a series of resolutions concerning the receivability of petitions, the composition of Minorities Committees, the frequency of their meetings, communications concerning their action upon petitions, publication of the results of their examination of the questions submitted to them and regular annual publications concerning the work of the League in connection with the protection of minorities. All the relevant documents relating to this question have been published in a special supplement to the Official Journal, together with the meetings of the Council sitting in Committee and of its discussions during the session of the Council itself.

The Council noted that the preparatory work for the First Conference on the Codification of International Law was concluded and provisionally fixed March 13th, 1930, as the date for the opening of the Conference. Arrangements are now being made for the Conference to meet at The Hague.

The Council further approved a suggestion of the Committee of Jurists appointed to consider the revision of the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice that a conference of the States parties to the Statute should meet concurrently with the tenth session of the Assembly to examine the proposed amendments to the Statute and the recommendations made by the Committee of Jurists. The Council adopted the report drawn up by the same Committee on the procedure to be followed in order to facilitate the accession of the United States of America to the Statute of the Court.

The Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference decided on May 6th to include the question of the continuation of the work of the Committee on Arbitration and Security in the agenda of the second part of its sixth session. It will be remembered that, at its sixth session, the Preparatory Commission refrained from drawing up a report and that, on adjourning, it did not consider its session to be closed.

The Council approved the work of the various technical organisations of the League, whose relevant reports and resolutions were summarised in the General Report to the Assembly.

The Economic Committee held its twenty-ninth session from July 1st to 4th, 1929. It arranged during that session for a further consultation of experts on the coal question, but decided that further consultations on the sugar question were, for the moment, unnecessary. The proposals of the Economic Consultative Committee for the appointment of a Committee of agricultural experts was postponed, so that the views of the President of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome might be available to the Economic Committee. The Council, in July, reviewed the progress of its investigations into the problem of smuggling, but did not consider that it was yet in a position to judge whether any international action was advisable.

The Financial Committee met on June 4th in Paris. It reviewed the progress of financial administration in Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Estonia and the Free City of Danzig. It postponed its decision in regard to the proposed issue of a loan to the Saar Basin Governing Commission.

The work of the Organisation for Communications and Transit was continued in several committees and conferences during June and July. Special attention is drawn to the European Conference which met on June 10th to deal with questions relating to passports and identity documents, to the action taken upon the resolutions of the Conference of Press Experts, and to the progress of the investigations on the question of public health in mandated territories.

The Council, in June, approved the reports and resolutions of the Health Organisation, and noted with special satisfaction the adoption by the Greek Government of the plan for the sanitary re-organisation of Greece, in collaboration with the Health Committee.

The Council, approving the report of the Committees dealing with humanitarian questions, authorised the Secretary-General to enquire of the interested Governments in the Near East, Middle East and Far East whether they would be prepared to co-operate in an extension to the East of the expert enquiry into the traffic in women and children. It approved the report of the Permanent Central Opium Board on its organisation and working.

The Permanent Mandates Commission held its fifteenth session from July 1st to July 19th, 1929. It examined, in the presence of the accredited representatives of the mandatory Powers, annual reports on the administration in the New Guinea (1927-1928), Nauru (1928), Togoland and the Cameroons under French Mandate (1928), South West Africa (1928), Palestine (1928), Tanganyika (1928), and Syria and the Lebanon (1928). It dealt with a number of petitions and discussed several questions of a general character. It considered, in particular, the treatment extended in countries Members of the League of Nations in those of emergency.

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The International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation held its eleventh session at Geneva on July 22nd to 26th, 1929, after the annual meetings of its various Sub-Committees (Intellectual Rights, University Relations, Arts and Letters, Science and Bibliography). The Committee requested its Chairman, in consultation with the Secretary-General, and with the Chairman of the Governing Body of the Institute on Intellectual Co-operation, to appoint a small Committee of not more than five of its members to study its programme, work and organisation, to review the progress made by the various questions, and to make suggestions as to any improvements which might increase the positive results to be achieved.

A full account of the matters referred to in this Introduction and of other work done since the issue of the General Report to the Assembly will be found in this Supplementary Report.

August 28th, 1929.
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I. PROGRESSIVE CODIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW: PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE FIRST CODIFICATION CONFERENCE.

At a third and final session held in May 1929, the Preparatory Committee considered information received from the Governments in the interval since its second session and adopted a second report to the Council, submitting in definitive form the bases of discussion which it proposed for the Conference on the three questions which are on the agenda of the Conference, namely, Nationality, Territorial Waters, and Responsibility of States for Damage done in their Territory to the Person or Property of Foreigners. The Committee also gave effect to the Council's request for its advice as to the formulation of general rules intended to govern the proceedings of the Conference. It embodied its recommendations on this subject in a set of "Draft Rules of Procedure" for the Conference. An explanation and commentary on the draft Rules, which are regarded by the Committee as merely proposals which the Conference is free to adopt, reject or amend, are contained in the Committee's second report to the Council.

It is contemplated that the detailed examination of the three questions on its agenda will be conducted by the Conference in three main Committees, on which all the delegations will be represented and which will work simultaneously. To permit of this method, the Committee suggests that each delegation might consist of a sufficient number of technical delegates in addition to a plenipotentiary delegate.

As regards the scope of the work of the Conference, the Committee's report contains the following statement:

"The suggestion that the Conference should deliberate on the bases of discussion prepared by the Preparatory Committee was also prompted by a desire to facilitate the work of the Conference. In point of fact, these bases of discussion were furnished by the Governments themselves, which replied to the requests submitted to them for information. The Committee merely collated their replies, and brought out the points on which they are in agreement. The individual delegations will, moreover, have the fullest liberty to submit amendments. The reason why proposals which do not come within the scope of the bases of discussion can only be dealt with if this is allowed by a previous decision is to obviate the necessity for the Conference to handle questions on which, as a result of the work of the Committee of Experts and the replies received from Governments, agreement would appear to be very unlikely. Moreover, the Conference will have the fullest possible powers to allow any question to be considered."

As regards the four points expressly mentioned in the Assembly resolution of September 27th, 1927, the Committee says:

"The Committee examined the four points to which the Assembly resolution of September 27th, 1927, specially drew the Council's attention. It considered that all these points were not equally suitable for inclusion in the Rules.

"As regards the use to be made of the majority rule, the draft is based on the idea that this rule should merely be adopted for the successive votes which may have to be taken when the various parts of a draft proposal are being framed in a Committee. The matter is more delicate when the question of the final adoption of a draft is involved. The Preparatory Committee is of opinion that the Conference should do everything in its power to secure unanimous agreement, and that, where agreement is reached, it should be definitely placed on record. Moreover, in conformity with the Assembly resolution, the draft Rules recognise, as being an Act of the Conference, any convention concluded by a majority of the States represented. Finally, it provides for a declaration, also representing the views of the majority and indicating what the States which subscribe to it regard as constituting existing international law.

"At this point the Preparatory Committee was confronted with the problem of the place which should be given, in the work of codification, to the conclusion of conventions conferring on the rules which they lay down the character of conventional law, and to the signature of declarations designed to recognise existing law. This problem is one of the special aspects of the problem of "the spirit of the codification", and is an exceedingly delicate matter. A particular Government which is prepared to sign some provision or other as a conventional rule might possibly refuse to recognise it as being the expression of existing law, whereas another Government which recognises this provision as existing

1 The two reports of the Committee are printed in each of the three volumes of the bases of discussion (see reference given below in the text).
2 Document C.190(1).M.93.1929.V.
law may not desire to see it included in a convention, being apprehensive that the
authority of the provision will be weakened thereby. It did not appear to be possible to
give a decision on this matter in the draft Rules. That is a problem which the Conference
will better be able to settle when it has definite stipulations before it. The attention
of Governments should be drawn to the importance of this point.

"The solution which will be found for this problem involves certain consequences
relating to the term of validity of the provisions adopted and the right to denounce them.
While such a right is very natural in the case of a convention, it is much less so in the case
of a declaration laying down the content of ordinary international law. These also are
points for which it is not easy to give solutions in advance in the Rules. The Conference
will, however, require to examine them carefully in connection with the individual Acts
which it has to frame, and must find suitable solutions in accordance with the contents
of each instrument.

"The Conference will also have to decide whether a procedure should be laid down
for revision, and how and to what extent the new instrument will, in the case of revision,
replace the old instrument. That again would not appear to be a point which could
be dealt with in the Rules for the Conference.

The spirit of the codification, moreover, cannot be dealt with in the Rules. It
was not possible to indicate whether only existing law should be registered, or whether
the aim should be to adapt existing law to contemporary conditions of international law.
The Conference will have to settle this question when the individual points are taken up.
The Preparatory Committee would desire merely to state here that the work of codification
involves the risk of a setback in international law if the content of the codification
instrument is less advanced than the actually existing law. This is a matter which the
Conference must always bear in mind.

"Finally, the Conference will have to decide carefully, in regard to each of the
instruments which it adopts, the procedure of ratification and accession, and to determine
to what extent reservations will be allowed. Only a few particulars could be indicated
on this matter in the draft Rules."

At its meeting of June 12th, 1929, the Council considered the work of the Preparatory
Committee and adopted the following resolution:

"The Council:

Having acquainted itself with the report of the Preparatory Committee for the
Codification Conference;

Notes with great satisfaction that the preparatory work for the first Codification
Conference is thus concluded, and thanks the Preparatory Committee for the work it
has accomplished;

Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the documentation containing the
bases of discussion and the report on the rules which might govern the procedure of the
Conference to the Members of the League and to the other Governments mentioned below;

Further requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the various Governments a
copy of the letter dated March 26th, 1929, from the Chairman of the Advisory and
Technical Committee for Communications and Transit, so that the Governments may
be able to take this matter into account, in so far as they may deem it necessary, when
issuing their instructions to their delegates to the Conference.

Reserves the right to convene the Conference as soon as this year's Assembly has
voted the necessary credits, and decides in principle to invite the following Governments:

(1) The Members of the League of Nations; (2) Brazil, Costa Rica, Egypt, Ecuador,
Free City of Danzig, Iceland, Mexico, Monaco, San Marino, Turkey, the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics, and the United States of America;

Provisionally fixes March 13th, 1930, as the date for the opening of the Conference;

Requests the Secretary-General to get into touch with the Netherlands Government
with a view to ascertaining whether this Government would be prepared to receive the
Conference in its territory on the above-mentioned date."

In execution of this decision of the Council, the documentation for the Conference has
been sent by the Secretary-General to the Governments to be invited to the Conference under
cover of a letter dated July 15th, 1929. The documents in question are as follows:

Bases of Discussion drawn up for the Conference by the Preparatory Committee,

Bases of Discussion drawn up for the Conference by the Preparatory Committee,

Bases of Discussion drawn up for the Conference by the Preparatory Committee,
Volume III: Responsibility of States for Damage caused in Their Territory to the Person
or Property of Foreigners, document C.75.M.69.1929.V;

Draft Rules of Procedure, document C.190(1).M.93.1929.V.

Letter from the Chairman of the Advisory and Technical Committee for Communica-
tions and Transit, document C.218(1).M.96.1929.V.¹

The Secretary-General has also been informed by the Netherlands Government that it
is prepared to receive the Conference for the Codification of International Law at The
Hague on March 13th, 1930, the date mentioned in the resolution adopted by the Council
at Madrid on June 12th, 1929.

¹ This letter communicates a resolution of the Committee formulating certain desiderata on the subject of territorial waters.
II. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE OF THREE JURISTS APPOINTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ASSEMBLY’S RESOLUTION OF SEPTEMBER 24TH, 1928 (PART III).

An account of the report made to the Council by this Committee is given in the general report to the Assembly. In the present Supplementary Report it only remains to state that, at its meeting of June 10th, 1929, the Council resolved to thank the Committee of Three Jurists for the work which it had accomplished and to transmit its report to the Members of the League and to the Assembly. The text of the report, together with that of the report made to the Council by the Rapporteur, the Italian representative, and the resolution adopted by the Council are submitted to the Assembly in document A.12.1929.V.

III. QUESTION OF THE REVISION OF THE STATUTE OF THE PERMANENT COURT OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE.

As stated in the general report to the Assembly, the Council, in pursuance of the Assembly’s resolution of September 20th, 1928, appointed a Committee of Jurists to report on the amendments which might appear desirable in the various provisions of the Statute of the Court.

At its meeting of June 12th, 1929, the Council considered the report of the Jurists, and the Rapporteur, the Italian representative, made the following statement as to the subsequent procedure to be adopted:

"Although the Assembly’s resolution of September 20th, 1928, asks the Council 'to submit the necessary proposals to the next ordinary session of the Assembly', it seems clear that the intentions of the Assembly will be fulfilled only if measures are taken by the Council forthwith for the early consideration by the States parties to the Court’s Statute of the proposed amendments. I think that the Council would be correctly interpreting the wishes of the Assembly in deciding, in accordance with the Committee’s suggestion, that such a consultation should take place concurrently with the next session of the Assembly. I propose, therefore, that the Council decide to convocate a Conference of the States parties to the Statute to meet at a date that would enable it to consult with the Assembly, whose intervention is also required. For similar reasons, the Council might agree to ask the Supervisory Commission to examine and report to the Assembly at its next session on the financial proposals contained in paragraph 14 of the report of the Committee."

The Council adopted the following resolution:

"The Council adopts the considerations and suggestions put forward by its Rapporteur. In view of the report which the Committee of Jurists has submitted to it on the question of the revision of the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice,

"‘The Council decides:

‘1. To instruct the Secretary-General to communicate the report of the Committee to the Members of the League of Nations and to the States mentioned in the Annex to the Covenant;

‘2. To convocate a Conference of States parties to the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice to meet at Geneva on Wednesday, September 4th, 1929, with a view to examining the amendments to the Statute and recommendations formulated by the Committee of Jurists;

‘3. To request the Supervisory Commission to present to the Assembly, at its next ordinary session, its opinion as to the measures proposed in paragraph 14 of the report of the Committee of Jurists.’"

In accordance with the decisions which have been taken by the Council and the Assembly, the question of the revision of the Statute of the Court has been placed on the agenda of the present session of the Assembly and invitations to the Conference convened by the Council were addressed by the Secretary-General to the Governments concerned in a letter dated July 12th, 1929.

The Jurists’ report, together with the report made to the Council by the Rapporteur, and the resolution adopted by the Council are submitted to the Assembly in document A.9.1929.V., which has also been distributed to the Governments, as directed by the Council. The report from the Supervisory Commission asked for in the last paragraph of the Council resolution will be found in document A.5(a).1929.X.

1 The Council, on June 15th, substituted this date for the date (September 10th) fixed by the resolution as originally adopted on June 12th.
IV. QUESTION OF THE ACCESSION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PROTOCOL OF SIGNATURE OF THE STATUTE OF THE PERMANENT COURT OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE.

At its meeting on June 12th, 1929, the Council considered the report and draft Protocol concerning the above-mentioned question which, as stated in the general report to the Assembly, had been presented to it by the Committee of Jurists on the Statute of the Permanent Court. The Council adopted the following resolution:

"The Council adopts, together with the draft Protocol annexed thereto, the report submitted to it by the Committee of Jurists on the question of the accession of the United States of America to the Protocol of Signature of the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice.

"Accordingly, it instructs the Secretary-General:

"(1) To reply to Mr. Kellogg's note of February 19th, 1929, and to communicate to the United States Government, together with the present Council resolution, the text of the said report and of the said draft Protocol;

"(2) To make the same communication to the States signatories of the Protocol of December 16th, 1920, and to transmit also to those States the text of the resolution of the Senate of the United States, dated January 27th, 1926, embodying the latter's reservations.

"In order that the Assembly, being, like the Council, a body whose procedure in regard to the method of seeking advisory opinions from the Court would be affected by the adoption of the Protocol proposed by the Committee of Jurists, may have an opportunity of expressing its opinion thereon, the Council decides to instruct the Secretary-General to transmit to the Assembly the report of the Committee and the draft Protocol and to place the question on the supplementary agenda of the tenth ordinary session of the Assembly."

In execution of the Council's decision, the proposals of the Jurists have been placed on the supplementary agenda of the present session of the Assembly. The report and draft Protocol, together with the text of the resolution adopted by the United States Senate on January 27th, 1926, have been communicated to the United States Government and the other Governments and are submitted to the Assembly in document A.11.1929.V. This publication also contains the report made to the Council by the Rapporteur, the Italian representative, on June 12th, 1929, the resolution adopted by the Council, and the Minutes of the Council's discussion of March 18th, 1926, which resulted in the meeting of signatories of the Protocol of Signature which took place in September 1926.

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2.

FINANCES OF THE LEAGUE.

I. GENERAL FINANCIAL POSITION.

The financial position remains satisfactory; over 58 per cent of the amount due under the budget for 1929 was received during the first seven months of the year.

II. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL AT ITS JUNE SESSION.

The Council, at its June session, decided not to submit any observations on the report of the Supervisory Commission, on the accounts for 1928 and the budget for 1930, reserving, however, the right of its members to make, during the Assembly, such proposals or amendments as they might think desirable.

III. EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE SUPERVISORY COMMISSION.

The Supervisory Commission held an extraordinary session from June 21st to 25th, 1929.

(a) ORGANISATION OF THE SECRETARIAT AND AMENDMENTS TO THE STAFF REGULATIONS.

A report on this question was submitted to the Supervisory Commission by the Secretary-General after careful study by the competent officials of the Secretariat. The Commission
did not, however, feel that it had been given time thoroughly to examine the problem and it
therefore limited itself to preliminary conversations between members and with the competent
officials. It will continue to consider the question and will present its conclusions to the eleventh
session of the Assembly.

(b) **HIGH COMMISSARIAT FOR REFUGEES.**

The report of the Advisory Commission on Refugees was referred to the Supervisory
Commission in the first instance so that the Commission might advise the Assembly upon its
financial aspects. After examining the history of the Refugee Service and the development of its work, the
Commission decided to recommend to the Assembly that the Service should be independent
and autonomous. The Commission felt, however, that it was bound to satisfy itself that the
annual subsidy was devoted to the purposes for which it was intended, and that the accounts
of the High Commission should, therefore, be subjected to a regular audit by the League's
Auditor and his report transmitted through the Supervisory Commission to the Assembly.

As regards the duration of the work which still remains for the Refugee Organisation,
the Advisory Commission suggested a period of ten years. The Supervisory Commission
recommended the Assembly to take a definite decision on this point and drew its attention to
the recurring statements which had been made to the effect that the subsidy was granted
for exceptional and temporary expenditure.

The Supervisory Commission endorsed the proposal of the Refugee Advisory Commission
that the budget provision for 1930 should be maintained at the 1929 figure (298,000 francs
for the general work of the High Commissariat and 50,000 francs for the settlement of refugees
in the Republic of Erivan). It added that, owing to the inability of either the International
Labour Office or the Secretariat to provide office accommodation or the usual central services,
an additional sum may have to be included in the estimates after the general position of the
Refugee Service had been discussed by the Assembly.

(c) **ACTION TAKEN BY THE SUPERVISORY COMMISSION ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE REPORT
OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE REVISION OF THE STATUTE OF THE PERMANENT COURT OF
INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE.**

At the request of the Council, the Commission considered certain aspects of the report
of the Committee for the revision of the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice.
In view of the fact that the judges will now be called upon to reside permanently at The Hague,
and having regard to certain decisions taken by the first Assembly in the matter, it recommended
that the judges’ annual salary be fixed at 45,000 florins. The Commission has also submitted
to the Assembly draft regulations for the pensions and travelling expenses of the members of
the Court.

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3.

**REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS.**

**INTER-ALLIED MILITARY CONTROL IN AUSTRIA.**

By a letter dated May 23rd, 1929, the President of the Conference of Ambassadors, with
reference to Article 159 of the Treaty of St. Germain, informed the Secretary-General officially
that the Liquidation Board of the Military Inter-Allied Commission of Control in Austria
concluded its mission on January 31st, 1928.

This letter was communicated to the Council at its June session and published in the
*Official Journal.*

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1 See *Official Journal*, August 1929, page 1276.
4.

ARBITRATION AND SECURITY.

I. GENERAL ACT AND THREE MODEL BILATERAL CONVENTIONS IN REGARD TO CONCILIATION, ARBITRATION AND JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT.

On September 26th, 1928, the Assembly adopted the following resolutions:

1. Resolution on the Submission and Recommendation of a General Act and of Three Model Bilateral Conventions in regard to Conciliation, Arbitration and Judicial Settlement.

"The Assembly:

"(1) Firmly convinced that effective machinery for ensuring the peaceful settlement of international disputes is an essential element in the cause of security and disarmament;

"(2) Considering that the faithful observance, under the auspices of the League of Nations, of methods of pacific settlement renders possible the settlement of all disputes;

"(3) Noting that respect for rights established by treaty or resulting from international law is obligatory upon international tribunals;

"(4) Recognising that the rights of the several States cannot be modified except with their consent;

"(5) Taking note of the fact that a great number of particular international conventions provide for obligatory conciliation, arbitration or judicial settlement;

"(6) Being desirous of facilitating to the greatest possible degree the development of undertakings in regard to the said methods of procedure;

"(7) Declaring that such undertakings are not to be interpreted as restricting the duty of the League of Nations to take at any time whatever action may be deemed wise and effectual to safeguard the peace of the world; or as impeding its intervention in virtue of Articles 15 and 17 of the Covenant, where a dispute cannot be submitted to arbitral or judicial procedure or cannot be settled by such procedure or where the conciliation proceedings have failed;

"(8) Invites all States, whether Members of the League or not, and in so far as their existing agreements do not already achieve this end, to accept obligations in pursuance of the above purpose either by becoming parties to the annexed General Act or by concluding particular conventions with individual States in accordance with the model bilateral conventions annexed hereto or in such terms as may be deemed appropriate;

"(9) Resolves to communicate the annexed General Act and the annexed model bilateral conventions to all Members of the League of Nations and to such States not Members of the League as may be indicated by the Council;

"(10) Requests the Council to give the Secretariat of the League of Nations instructions to keep a list of the engagements contracted in accordance with the terms of the present resolution either by acceptance of the provisions of the General Act or by the conclusion of particular conventions with the same object, so as to enable Members of the League and States non-Members of the League to obtain information as soon as possible."

2. Resolution concerning the Good Offices of the Council.

"The Assembly;

"In view of the resolution adopted by the Assembly on September 25th, 1926, requesting the Council to offer its good offices to States Members of the League for the conclusion of suitable agreements likely to establish confidence and security;

"Recognising that the development of procedures for the pacific settlement of any disputes which may arise between States is an essential factor in the prevention of wars;

"Expresses its appreciation of the progress achieved in concluding treaties of this kind, and its desire to see the application of the principle of the pacific settlement of all disputes extended as far as possible; and

"Invites the Council to inform all States Members of the League that, should States feel the need of reinforcing the general security conferred by the Covenant and of contracting for this purpose undertakings concerning the pacific settlement of any disputes which may arise between them, and should negotiations in connection therewith meet
with difficulties, the Council would, if requested to do so by one of the parties — after it has examined the political situation and taken account of the general interests of peace — be prepared to place at the disposal of the States concerned its good offices, which, being voluntarily accepted by them, would be calculated to bring the negotiations to a happy issue."

To give effect to these resolutions of the Assembly, the Council, at its meeting on September 26th, 1928, adopted the following resolution:

"(1) The Council invites the Secretary-General to communicate the General Act and the three model bilateral conventions in regard to conciliation, arbitration and judicial settlement to all the States Members of the League of Nations and to the following non-Member States: Afghanistan, Brazil, Costa Rica, Egypt, Ecuador, Mexico, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America. The Secretary-General, is requested to draw the attention of Governments to the texts which throw light on these documents, viz., (1) the Assembly's resolution on their submission and recommendation; (2) M. Politis's report adopted by the Assembly; (3) an introductory note explaining the structure of the treaties. (This note should be prepared by the Secretariat, which would take as a basis the introductory note drawn up by the Committee on Arbitration and Security, but revising it to take account of the modifications made in the Committee's proposals by the Assembly, especially in consequence of the fusion of model general conventions A, B and C into a single General Act.)

"(2) The Council authorises the Secretary-General to keep the list of engagements referred to in paragraph 10 of the Assembly resolution reproduced above under No. 1.

"(3) The Council further asks the Secretary-General to inform all the States Members of the League of Nations that the Council is prepared to place at the disposal of the States concerned the good offices which they may be willing to accept voluntarily, under the conditions set forth in the second resolution of the Assembly, reproduced above."

The list of engagements referred to in paragraph (2) of the above-mentioned Council resolution is reproduced in the annex to the present report.

The Secretary-General has discharged the duties entrusted to him in paragraphs (1) and (3) of this resolution, by letters dated November 12th, 1928, addressed to States Members of the League and the non-Member States designated by the Council.

Up to the present time, the following States have deposited at the Secretariat of the League their instruments of accession to the General Act:

(a) SWEDEN, May 13th, 1929 (acceded to Chapters I, II and IV of the General Act).
(b) BELGIUM, May 18th, 1929 (acceded to the whole of the General Act).
(c) NORWAY, June 11th, 1929 (acceded to Chapters I, II and IV of the General Act).

Consequently, in accordance with Article 44, the General Act came into force on August 16th, 1929, the ninetieth day following the receipt of the second accession by the Secretary-General of the League.

II. OPTIONAL CLAUSE OF ARTICLE 36 OF THE STATUTE OF THE PERMANENT COURT OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE.

On September 26th, 1928, the Assembly adopted the following resolution:

"The Assembly:
"Referring to the resolution of October 2nd, 1924, in which the Assembly, considering that the terms of Article 36, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice are sufficiently wide to permit States to adhere to the special Protocol opened for signature in virtue of that article with the reservations which they regard as indispensable, and convinced that it is in the interest of the progress of international justice that the greatest possible number of States should, to the widest possible extent, accept as compulsory the jurisdiction of the Court, recommends States to accede to the said Protocol at the earliest possible date;
"Noting that this recommendation has not so far produced all the effect that is to be desired;
"Being of opinion that, in order to facilitate effectively the acceptance of the clause in question, it is expedient to diminish the obstacles which prevent States from committing themselves;
"Being convinced that the efforts now being made through progressive codification to diminish the uncertainties and supply the deficiencies of international law will greatly facilitate the acceptance of the Optional Clause of Article 36 of the Statute of the Court, and that, meanwhile, attention should once more be drawn to the possibility offered by the terms of that clause to States which do not see their way to accede to it without qualification, to do so subject to appropriate reservations limiting the extent of their commitments, both as regards duration and as regards scope;
"Noting, in this latter connection, that the reservations conceivable may relate, either generally to certain aspects of any kind of dispute, or specifically to certain classes or lists of disputes, and that these different kinds of reservation can be legitimately combined;
"Recommends that States which have not yet acceded to the Optional Clause of Article 36 of the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice should, failing accession pure and simple, consider, with due regard to their interests, whether they can accede on the conditions above indicated;

"Requests the Council to communicate the text of this resolution to those States as soon as possible, desiring them to notify it of their intentions in the matter indicating at the same time the questions of international law the elucidation of which would, in their opinion, facilitate their accession to the Optional Clause of Article 36 of the Statute of the Court; and

"Asks the Council to inform the Assembly at its next session of the replies it has by then received."

In pursuance of this resolution of the Assembly, the Council adopted the following resolution on September 26th, 1928:

"The Council authorises the Secretary-General to notify the said resolution of the Assembly to the States which have not acceded to the Optional Clause of Article 36 of the Statute of the Court, requesting them to inform him of their intentions in the matter, and to indicate at the same time the questions of international law the elucidation of which would in their opinion facilitate their accession to the Optional Clause of Article 36 of the Statute of the Court."

The notification referred to in this resolution was made by the Secretary-General in a letter dated November 30th, 1928.

III. NON-AGGRESSION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE.

On September 26th, 1928, the Assembly adopted the following resolutions:

1. Resolution on the Submission and Recommendation of Model Treaties of non-Aggression and Mutual Assistance:

"The Assembly,

"Having noted the model treaties of non-aggression and mutual assistance prepared by the Committee on Arbitration and Security, and amended as a result of the work of the First and Third Committees of the Assembly, together with the explanations supplied in the introductory note drawn up by the first-named Committee;

"Highly appreciating the value of those model treaties;

"And convinced that their adoption by the States concerned would contribute towards strengthening the guarantees of security;

"Recommends them for consideration by States Members or non-Members of the League of Nations; and

"Hopes that they may serve as a basis for States desiring to conclude treaties of this sort."

2. Resolution concerning the Good Offices of the Council.

"In view of the resolution adopted by the Assembly on September 25th, 1926, requesting the Council to offer its good offices to States Members of the League for the conclusion of suitable agreements likely to establish confidence and security,

"The Assembly:

"Convinced that the conclusion between States in the same geographical area of treaties of non-aggression and mutual assistance providing for conciliation, arbitration and mutual guarantees against aggression by any one of them constitutes one of the most practical means that can now be recommended to States anxious to secure more effective guarantees of security;

"Being of opinion that the good offices of the Council, if freely accepted by all the parties concerned, might facilitate the conclusion of such treaties;

"Invites the Council to inform all the States Members of the League of Nations that, should States feel the need of reinforcing the general security conferred by the Covenant and of concluding a treaty of non-aggression and mutual assistance or a treaty of non-aggression for this purpose, and should the negotiations relating thereto meet with difficulties, the Council would, if requested by one of the parties — after it has examined the political situation and taken account of the general interests of peace — be prepared to place at the disposal of the States concerned its good offices which, being voluntarily accepted, would be calculated to bring the negotiations to a happy issue."

On September 26th, 1928, the Council adopted the following resolution on this subject:

"(1) The Council asks the Secretary-General to communicate to the States Members or non-Members of the League of Nations the model treaties of non-aggression and mutual assistance and the introductory note prepared by the Committee on Arbitration and Security, together with the Third Committee's report and the resolution adopted by the Assembly on the said Committee's proposal.
(2) The Council further asks the Secretary-General to inform all the States Members of the League of Nations that the Council is prepared to place at the disposal of the States concerned the good offices which they may be willing to accept voluntarily under the conditions set forth in the second resolution of the Assembly reproduced above.

The communications mentioned in this resolution were made by the Secretary-General in letters dated November 12th, 1928.

IV. REVISION OF THE SYSTEMATIC SURVEY OF ARBITRATION CONVENTIONS AND TREATIES OF MUTUAL SECURITY DEPOSITED WITH THE SECRETARIAT OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

On September 26th, 1928, the Assembly adopted the following resolution:

"The Assembly:

"Recognising the importance of the documentation which the Secretariat of the League of Nations has begun to collect concerning treaties of judicial settlement, arbitration and conciliation, and of the maps and graphs which it contemplates establishing;

"Requests the Secretary-General to be so good as to invite the Governments of States Members or non-Members of the League of Nations to communicate to the Secretariat the text:

(1) Of those treaties for the pacific settlement of disputes which are now in force and which were concluded prior to the establishment of the League of Nations and which have not been registered;

(2) Of such arbitral awards affecting them as may be rendered in the future, with the exception of judgments of the Permanent Court of International Justice and of the Permanent Court of Arbitration and of special tribunals such as the Mixed Arbitral Tribunals."

On August 1st, 1929, sixteen Governments (Austria, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Germany, Great Britain, India, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Poland, Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Sweden, Switzerland, Venezuela) had replied to the letter addressed by the Secretary-General to the Governments of States Members and non-Members of the League of Nations, in execution of the aforementioned resolution.

V. ARTICLES 10, 11 AND 16 OF THE COVENANT.

On September 20th, 1928, the Assembly adopted the following resolution:

"The Assembly:

"Having noted the work of the Committee on Arbitration and Security in regard to Articles 10, 11 and 16 of the Covenant,

"Appreciates the great importance of the work done to apply the provisions in question;

"Considers that the information concerning the question of the criteria of aggression contained in the Committee's documents usefully summarises the studies made by the Assembly and the Council and the provisions of certain treaties;

"Recalls in particular that the action to be taken by the Council under Article 11 and other articles of the Covenant, in the case of a conflict, will provide it with important elements of appreciation likely to facilitate the determination of the aggressor in the event of war breaking out in spite of every effort;

"Considers that the study of Article 11 of the Covenant, which stipulates that the League "shall take any action that may be deemed wise and effectual to safeguard the peace of nations", forms the natural counterpart of the study undertaken by the Committee of the Council and approved by the Council on December 6th, 1927, on the Assembly's recommendation, and, without detracting from the value of the other articles of the Covenant, brings into prominence the fact that the League's first task is to forestall war, and that, in all cases of armed conflict or of threats of armed conflict, of whatever nature, it must take action to prevent hostilities or to stop hostilities which have already begun;

"Takes note of the suggestions concerning Article 16 contained in the Committee's documents relative to the study of the articles of the Covenant;

"Recommends to the Council the studies in question as a useful piece of work which, without proposing a hard-and-fast procedure in time of emergency, and without adding to or detracting from the rights and duties of the Members of the League, provides valuable indications as to the possibilities offered by the different articles of the Covenant, and as to the way in which they may be applied, without prejudice to the different modes of procedure which the infinite variety of possible eventualities may render necessary in practice;

"In conclusion, recommends that a study should be undertaken of the other articles of the Covenant the conscientious and full application of which offers special guarantees of security."
In pursuance of this resolution of the Assembly, the Council adopted the following resolution on September 26th, 1928:

"The Council:

(1) Takes note of the Assembly resolution of September 20th, 1928, regarding the work of the Committee on Arbitration and Security on Articles 10, 11 and 16 of the Covenant, and adopts the studies in question as a useful piece of work, which, without proposing a hard-and-fast procedure in time of emergency, and without adding to or detracting from the rights and duties of the Members of the League, provides valuable indications as to the possibilities offered by the different articles of the Covenant, and as to the way in which they may be applied, without prejudice to the different modes of procedure which the infinite variety of possible eventualities may render necessary in practice; and

(2) Transmits to the Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference the recommendation of the Assembly that a study should be undertaken of the other articles of the Covenant."

The Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference has not yet undertaken the examination of this question.

VI. MODEL TREATY TO STRENGTHEN THE MEANS FOR PREVENTING WAR.

On September 20th, 1928, the Assembly adopted the following resolution:

"The Assembly:

Having noted the model treaty to strengthen the means for preventing war framed by the Committee on Arbitration and Security, together with the explanations contained in the introductory note drawn up by the Committee;

Highly appreciating the value of this model treaty;

Being convinced that its adoption by a large number of States would serve to increase the guarantees of security;

Recommends it for consideration by States Members or non-Members of the League of Nations;

And hopes that it may serve as a basis for States desiring to conclude a treaty of this kind."

On November 12th, 1928, the Secretary-General transmitted this resolution, together with the model treaty, to States Members of the League and to non-Member States to whom the General Act and other models framed by the Committee on Arbitration and Security were communicated.

On July 15th, 1929, the Netherlands Government informed the Secretary-General that it was glad to find itself in complete agreement with the principles on which this model treaty is based. It made certain observations, however, as regards the form and content of the text recommended for its consideration.

The Secretary-General transmitted the Netherlands Government’s observations to all States to whom the model treaty had been communicated.

VII. WIRELESS STATION TO BE CREATED WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS WITH INDEPENDENT COMMUNICATIONS IN TIME OF EMERGENCY.

This question is dealt with in the chapter of the present report relating to the "Organisation for Communications and Transit".

VIII. CONTINUATION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARBITRATION AND SECURITY.

At its sixth session, held at Geneva, from April 15th to May 6th, 1929, the Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference noted with satisfaction the results achieved by the Committee on Arbitration and Security.

It expressed its satisfaction that certain countries had already announced their intention of acceding to the General Act and that other countries had concluded or were negotiating bilateral treaties based on the models prepared by the Committee on Arbitration and Security.

At its meeting on May 6th, 1929, the Preparatory Commission decided to include the question of the progress of the work of the Committee on Arbitration and Security in the agenda of the second part of its sixth session, to permit of an exchange of views regarding the line of conduct it might indicate and to enable M. Beneš, the Chairman of the Committee, to convene it in good time.

1 See document C.327.M.113.1929.VII.
5. POLITICAL QUESTIONS.


On March 4th, 1929, the Council decided 1 to postpone this question to its session in June 1929.

On June 8th, 1929, the representatives of the Hungarian and Roumanian Governments informed the Secretary-General that, since direct negotiations were continuing, the two Governments had agreed to ask the Council to adjourn the matter until its session in September 1929. The Council acceded to this request at its meeting on June 10th, 1929.

II. REQUEST OF THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT UNDER ARTICLE 239 OF THE TREATY OF TRIANON FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SUBSTITUTE ARBITRATOR ON THE MIXED HUNGARO-SERB-CROAT-SLOVENE ARBITRAL TRIBUNAL.

On December 15th, 1928, the Hungarian Government addressed to the Council a request for the application of the provisions of Article 239 of the Treaty of Trianon in view of the vacancy created in the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal by the fact that the Serb-Croat-Slovene arbitrator had stated in a letter addressed to the President of the Mixed Hungaro-Serb-Croat-Slovene Arbitral Tribunal that he was unable to take part in the Tribunal's deliberations in the case of “Archduke Frederick of Habsburg-Lorraine v. the Serb-Croat-Slovene State”.

At its meeting on March 4th, 1929, the Council took note of two letters from the Hungarian Government and from the Government of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, in which these Governments stated that, as a result of an interview which had just taken place at Lausanne between the President of the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal and their representatives, there was reason to hope that the question of the absence of the Serb-Croat-Slovene arbitrator from the Tribunal might be amicably settled without it being necessary for the Council to adopt any resolution on the matter. The Council therefore postponed the question until its June session.

In letters dated June 7th and 8th respectively, the representatives of the Serb-Croat-Slovene Government and the Hungarian Government informed the Council, through the Secretary-General, that the negotiations referred to in March had resulted in a settlement of the question and that, as a result, the Serb-Croat-Slovene arbitrator had resumed his duties on the Tribunal. The two Governments having agreed to note that the intervention of the Council was no longer necessary in the matter, the request of the Hungarian Government should be considered as withdrawn.

The Council accordingly decided, on June 10th, 1929, to withdraw the question from its agenda.

III. THE TACNA-ARICA QUESTION.

At its meeting on June 13th, 1929, the representative of Chile informed the Council, on behalf of his Government, that the question concerning the sovereignty over the territories of Tacna and Arica had been settled by a treaty signed at Lima by the plenipotentiaries of Chile and Peru.

The President of the Council said that the Council noted with the utmost satisfaction an event which put an end to an old dispute between two nations of the same race, language and traditions. The members of the Council associated themselves with the President's statement.

IV. ENTRY OF NAVAL AND AIR FORCES INTO THE BLACK SEA.

(COMMUNICATION FROM THE STRAITS COMMISSION.)

In a letter dated June 20th, addressed to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, the President of the Straits Commission, Admiral Vassif (Turkey), on behalf of the Commission, drew the attention of the League of Nations to the following incident:

On June 6th an Italian squadron consisting of thirty-five hydroplanes arrived at Constantinople, following the Straits, with the consent of the Turkish Government. After a stay of

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twenty-four hours, twenty-one of these hydroplanes, escorted by three destroyers, followed the Bosphorus to the Black Sea, while the remaining fourteen, in accordance with their orders, rejoined the others after flying over the Sea of Marmora and the Ismid peninsula.

The Commission is of opinion that the provisions of the Straits Convention were not observed and draws attention to the text of paragraph 2 of the annex to Article 2, which reads as follows:

"The maximum force which any one Power may send through the Straits into the Black Sea is not to be greater than that of the most powerful fleet of the littoral Powers of the Black Sea existing in that sea at the time of passage."

While acknowledging that the Italian Government showed its intention of conforming to the provisions of the Convention by splitting up its squadron after it arrived at Constantinople, the Commission states that it would be glad if the League of Nations would settle for the future the differences of interpretations in connection with the entry of naval and air forces into the Black Sea.

The Secretary-General communicated the Commission’s letter to the Council, the signatory Powers of the Straits Convention and the Members of the League.

V. RUSSIAN, ARMENIAN, ASSYRIAN, ASSYRO-CHALDEAN AND TURKISH REFUGEES.

At its meeting on June 12th, 1929, the Council considered the report of the Advisory Commission for Refugees.

On the proposal of the representative of Venezuela, Rapporteur, the Council decided not to discuss at the moment the substance of the question and to forward to the Assembly the Advisory Commission’s report and the recommendations contained therein.

6.

ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS.

I. TERRITORY OF THE SAAR BASIN.

1. GOVERNING COMMISSION’S LOAN.

The question of the Governing Commission’s proposal for a loan is dealt with in the chapter of the present report relating to the work of the Financial Committee.

2. GENERAL QUESTIONS.

Under the arrangement approved by the Council on May 17th, 1920, the Governing Commission has sent to the League of Nations its thirty-eighth periodical report, for the second quarter of 1929. Certain questions dealt with in this report are mentioned below.

Economic and Social Situation.

As a result of negotiations between the French State Mines Administration and the unions concerned, it was decided to increase miners’ wages by an amount representing about 5 per cent of the wages hitherto current.

Conditions in the labour market show a distinct improvement. The number of unemployed has fallen from 9,920 on March 20th, 1929, to 3,471 on May 22nd, 1929.

Administration.

Housing Question. — Several Communes have been able to abolish compulsory rent regulation which is now maintained in fifty-five communes only, while 235 communes have reverted to the ordinary law in the matter.

After consultation with the elected representatives of the population, the Governing Commission decided to extend until June 30th, 1930 (with certain amendments) the Decrees which expired on June 30th, 1929, regulating the housing question.

Valorisation. — On April 22nd, 1929, the Governing Commission issued a Decree dealing with the valorisation of mortgages, debts on land, ground rents and other claims. The Governing

Commission decided to take up these important matters for the following reasons. The depreciation of the former German currency affected a large number of people in the Saar Territory as elsewhere. The first proposal submitted by the Governing Commission to the representatives of the population only provided for the valorisation of mortgages and real property rights. Various bodies, however, demanded an extension of the valorisation scheme, and were specially anxious to have included claims arising out of communal industrial bonds, pledges and savings bank deposits.

The Governing Commission agreed to these proposals. Although adapted to the special conditions of the Saar Territory, the provisions of the Decree of April 22nd resemble, as far as possible, the German provisions concerning valorisation, more particularly the Reich laws of 1925 and 1927.

One of the most difficult points to be decided in regard to mortgage valorisation was to what date it should be made retrospective. This question evoked lively discussion in the circles interested. While the Saarbruck Chamber of Commerce requested that the date should be June 15th, 1922, the day prescribed by German legislation, the political parties declared in a general way for the year 1921 without, however, being unanimous as to the exact date. In view of the fact that currency developments in the Saar Territory did not take the same course as in the Reich, the Governing Commission fixed October 1st, 1921, as the date.

In regard to procedure, regulations were issued setting up a special section for valorisation cases at every cantonal court. Appeal may be made against all decisions of these authorities.

Communal Questions. — The boundaries of two Communes have been altered, so that the locality of Fröhn, which used to belong to the Commune of Wemmetzweiler, is now part of the Commune of Merchweiler.

The communes and districts (Kreis) of the Saar Territory asked for permission to raise a loan for very varied purposes: construction of roads, bridges, etc. The Governing Commission authorised the Inter-Communal Union of Saar Territory districts, which is to conclude the loan, to enter into negotiations on the subject. The loan must not exceed 187 million francs. The Governing Commission, moreover, reserved its final authorisation.

The city of Saarbruck also asked for permission to contract several loans; but, in view of the heavy charges arising from the city’s previous obligations, the Governing Commission did not see its way to granting these requests.

Aviation. — The Governing Commission, as a member since 1927 of the International Commission for Air Navigation, concluded an air agreement with the Swiss Government, which came into force on September 1st, 1928. A second agreement concluded with the German Government came into force on May 1st, 1929.

An aviation meeting was organised at Saarbruck on May 5th, 1929, in which French and German aircraft took part. The Saarbruck airport was officially opened on May 16th, 1929. So far as it depended on the Governing Commission, sanction was given to establish a commercial air route, Paris-Saarbruck-Frankfort-Berlin, exploited jointly by the Societé générale de Transport aérien and the Deutsche Luft Hansa. This line was opened on May 21st, 1929.

On the same day a wireless station for the transmission and reception of meteorological and air traffic messages commenced operations at Saarbruck.

3. PETITION FROM THE INHABITANTS OF THE SAAR TERRITORY.

A petition from the Saar Mining Employees’ Trade Union was communicated by the Governing Commission to the Council for its information under the terms of the Council resolution of May 17th, 1920.

II. FREE CITY OF DANZIG.

PARTICIPATION OF THE FREE CITY OF DANZIG IN INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS.

In June 1929, the High Commissioner informed the Council of the Free City of Danzig’s intention to adhere to the Kellogg Pact and the Litvinoff Protocol. The High Commissioner added that, in respect of these adhesions, he saw no reason to exercise the right of veto provided under Article 6 of the Treaty of November 9th, 1920, between the Free City of Danzig and Poland.

RELATIONS BETWEEN DANZIG AND POLAND.

The High Commissioner informed the Secretary-General that several agreements had been concluded between the Free City of Danzig and Poland, relating chiefly to economic and taxation questions.

An agreement has also been concluded on the question of the knowledge of the Polish language required of Danzig employees of the Polish Railway Management at Danzig.
It was noted in the general report to the Assembly (document A.6.1929, page 43) that the Council had in March instructed its Rapporteur for minorities questions to submit, at its June session, a report on the proposals of the representatives of Canada and Germany, taking into account the points raised by various members of the Council during the discussion to which these proposals had given rise. The Council asked the representatives of Great Britain and Spain to co-operate with the Rapporteur in drawing up this report. It was understood that the Rapporteur and his colleagues might receive any observations that the Governments of States which had accepted provisions for the protection of minorities might desire to present and that any State Member of the League of Nations might also submit its views.

The Committee of Three met at Geneva on March 9th, 1929, and in London on April 29th to May 4th, 1929. The report contains an historical and analytical survey of the content and purpose of the Minorities Treaties and of the stipulations relating to the protection of minorities contained in the Treaties of Peace. It records the Council's agreement to the placing of the Treaty stipulations concerning the protection of minorities under the guarantee of the League, describes the nature and limits of the guarantee and reviews the various measures taken to facilitate its exercise. These measures include the institution and development of a special procedure for the examination of petitions and the creation and development of the Minorities Section of the Secretariat. The report further summarises the discussions on the protection of minorities which have taken place during the successive sessions of the Assembly and describes the practical application of the procedure for the examination of petitions.

The report concludes with a number of general considerations. Proposals are put forward relating to the transmission of petitions, the relations of the Council of the League and the Secretariat with the petitioners, the composition and operation of the Committees dealing with petitions and the measures taken to secure information and to ensure publicity. Annexed to the report are the memoranda forwarded to the Committee of Three by the Governments, and a list of communications received from various associations and organisations.

The report of the Committee of Three was examined, in the first instance, by the Council sitting in Committee, at Madrid on June 6th, 7th, 8th and 11th. The Minutes of the meetings of the Council in Committee, together with the report of the Committee of Three and other relevant documents, have been published as a special supplement (No. 73) to the Official Journal in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Council on June 13th, 1929.

As a result of the discussions of the Council sitting in Committee the Rapporteur submitted a report and draft resolution to the Council at its meeting held on June 13th. The draft resolution was unanimously approved by the members of the Council, subject to the observations which they had submitted during the discussions in Committee and to statements made in the course of the Council meeting of June 13th. The report and resolution adopted by the Council, which should be read in the light of those statements and observations, are in the following terms:

"By its resolution of March 7th, 1929, the Council instructed its Rapporteur and the representatives of Great Britain and Spain to submit a report for its June session. This document was distributed to the Members of the Council on May 18th (document C.C.M.1).

"In the same resolution, the Council decided to sit in Committee before the opening of its June session in order to make a first examination of the report. It met for that purpose on June 6th, 7th, 8th and 11th.

"As the outcome of its discussions, the Members of the Council, sitting in Committee, reached agreement on a number of provisions. These provisions are contained in the following draft resolution, which the Rapporteur has the honour to submit for the Council's approval:

"The Council:

"(a) Decides to add to the provisions contained in its previous resolutions regarding the procedure for the examination of minorities' petitions the following provisions:

1. Receivability of Petitions.

"When the Secretary-General declares a petition non-receivable, he will inform the petitioner and, if necessary, will communicate to him the Council resolution of September 5th, 1923, laying down the conditions of receivability of minority petitions.

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1 Document C.C.M.1.1929.I.
2. *Composition of Minorities Committees.*

“The President of the Council may, in exceptional cases, invite four members of the Council to examine minorities petitions, instead of two as laid down in the Council resolution of October 25th, 1920.

3. *Frequency of the Meetings of the Minorities Committees.*

“The Council considers that it would be desirable for Minorities Committees to take into account the possibility of holding meetings in the intervals between sessions of the Council, whenever they think it expedient for the examination of individual petitions.

4. *Communications concerning the Action taken on Petitions by the Minorities Committees.*

“(1) When the members of a Minorities Committee have finished the examination of a question, without asking that it be placed on the Council’s agenda, they will communicate the result of their examination by letter to the other Members of the Council for their information. The Secretary-General will keep the relevant documents at the disposal of the Members of the Council.

“(2) The Secretary-General will distribute once a year, for the information of all the Members of the Council, a document reproducing the letters addressed during the year, as described above, by the various Minorities Committees to the Members of the Council.

5. *Publication o f the Result of the Examination of a Question by a Minorities Committee.*

“The Minorities Committees should consider carefully the possibility of publishing, with the consent of the Government concerned, the result of the examination of the questions submitted to them. The Council earnestly hopes that the Government will, whenever possible, give their consent to such publication. The information might be published in the *Official Journal* and might consist of the letter from the Minorities Committee informing the other Members of the Council, or any other text that seemed expedient.


“The Secretary-General will publish annually in the *Official Journal* of the League statistics of: (1) the number of petitions received by the Secretariat during the year; (2) the number of petitions declared to be non-receivable; (3) the number of petitions declared to be receivable and referred to Committees of Three; (4) the number of Committees and the number of meetings held by them to consider these petitions; (5) the number of petitions whose examination by a Committee of Three has been finished in the course of the year.

“(b) The present resolution will be communicated to the States which have accepted stipulations for the protection of minorities.

“(c) The report prepared by the Japanese representative, as Rapporteur, with the assistance of the British and Spanish representatives (document C.C.M.I), including the annexes thereto, together with the Minutes of the meetings of the Council sitting in Committee for the examination of this question and those of the present meeting of the Council, will be communicated to all the Members of the League and will, in accordance with practice, be published.”

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II. MINORITIES IN UPPER SILESIA.

1. *German-Polish Conversations regarding the Application of Certain Clauses of the Convention of May 15th, 1922, relating to Upper Silesia.*

The Rapporteur for minorities questions informed the Council in March 1929 that the German and Polish Governments had agreed to engage in direct negotiations for the purpose of settling a certain number of points of interpretation of the Geneva Convention of May 15th, 1922, relating to Upper Silesia (document A.6.1929, page 49). It was understood that the Rapporteur would preside over these negotiations, with the assistance of the President of the Mixed Commission for Upper Silesia. More particularly, the representatives of the two countries desired to consider the possibility of improving and accelerating the local procedure as regulated by Article 149 of the Convention and of lightening the burden laid upon the Council by Article 147. These articles concern the right of petition and methods of redress, the form in which petitions are to be transmitted, the proceedings before the Mixed Commission, time-limits, etc.

The negotiations, which began in Paris on March 25th and continued until April 6th, resulted in the conclusion of certain agreements which were signed by the Polish and German delegates, subject to the subsequent approval of their respective Governments and with reservations as to their attitudes on certain legal points. The Rapporteur was duly informed

1 Observations of the Governments of Austria, Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Roumania, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and Switzerland, and also the list of communications from associations and organisations.
by thirty-three children on April 1st, 1925, but this number had fallen to five on April 1st, the date when the German Government made its observations. The third school was attended by eight children on April 1st, 1928; another had eleven children on April 1st, 1925, and only four on April 1st, 1926. The school, which was opened on May 1st, 1925, with fifteen children, was attended by only seven.

2. Concrete Questions relating to the application of the Convention relating to Upper Silesia.

The Council, during its June session, examined a number of questions relating to minorities in Upper Silesia. Two petitions of the "Deutscher Volksbund für Polnisch Schlesien" were postponed for later examination, since the Polish Government had, in both cases, asked that the period during which its observations might be sent should be extended. The first of these petitions, dated March 22nd, 1929, related to the opening of a minorities school at Koszecin, and the second to the way in which the Polish Government had carried into effect the resolution adopted by the Council on March 12th, 1927. Two other petitions were withdrawn by the petitioners.

The Council considered and adopted reports on the five following petitions:

(a) Petition from the Association of Poles in Germany (Section I, at Oppeln), dated December 22nd, 1928, concerning the Polish Minority Schools in German Upper Silesia.

On December 22nd, 1928, the Association of Poles in Germany (Section I, at Oppeln) addressed direct to the Council, under Article 147 of the Geneva Convention of May 15th, 1922, relating to Upper Silesia, a petition concerning the Polish minority schools in German Upper Silesia.

1. In this petition, the Association of Poles alleges that the provisions of the Geneva Convention relating to Upper Silesia are not observed by the German authorities so far as concerns the establishment and maintenance of Polish minority schools. The petition quotes, as instances, the cases of three schools in which instruction is stated to have been suspended for a certain period, either on account of the illness of the teacher or owing to his transfer to another post.

2. The petition further asserts that there is not one teacher in these schools who would acknowledge himself a member of the Polish minority, and that teachers who speak Polish fluently are very rare. The petitioners add that the Polish courses provided for the teaching staff are inadequate owing to their being too short, and that the German authorities have not done anything to provide an adequate training for future teachers in the Polish minority schools.

3. The petition reproduces certain official German statistics for June 1925 concerning the attendance at Polish minority schools in German Upper Silesia. According to these figures, the number of children of school-age belonging to the Polish minority would average about 50,000. There are, however, only 498 children attending the Polish minority schools in German Upper Silesia. The Association of Poles regards this relatively insignificant figure as the most striking result of the methods employed by the Prussian authorities to dissuade Polish parents from sending their children to the minority schools, and consequently to destroy Polish education in general, since the local population, which consists of labourers and peasants, is so poor that it cannot provide private schools from its own funds. On this point, the petitioners refer to the difficulties in which parents are afraid of being involved if they send their children to the minority schools, and urge that this fear is justified by unpleasant experiences in the past.

The following are the explanations furnished by the German Government on the various points raised in the petition:

1. The German Government points out that the attendance at the three schools in which instruction has been suspended for various reasons has been, and is, very small. One of these schools, which was opened on May 1st, 1925, with fifteen children, was attended by only seven children on April 1st, 1928; another had eleven children on April 1st, 1925, and only four on the date when the German Government made its observations. The third school was attended by thirty-three children on April 1st, 1925, but this number had fallen to five on April 1st,
1928, and to-day no children at all attend this school. According to the provisions of the Geneva Convention, the administration has for several years been under no obligation to maintain these minority schools, since they are attended by less than twenty children in a year. Accordingly, the continued upkeep of these schools goes beyond the obligations which Germany assumed under the Geneva Convention.

(2) With regard to the training of teachers for the minority schools, the German Government observes that Article 113 of the Geneva Convention does not involve any obligation to establish institutions in which the language employed in teaching would be the minority language, but institutions designed, in conformity with the legislation of the State concerned, for the general training of future teachers, where the language of instruction should be the minority language. The German Government asserts that it has discharged this obligation as well as that of establishing special courses for teachers who are to be appointed to the minority schools in order that they may study the minority language. Over one hundred teachers have been trained by five Polish professors provided by the Polish Government. These courses have been inspected by M. Danek, delegated by the President of the Mixed Commission for Upper Silesia, and his impression was that they were perfectly satisfactory.

The German Government, at the same time, states that, when the Geneva Convention was negotiated, the old teachers' training system had already been abolished and a reorganisation on new lines was intended. The German Government now proposes, as it has informed the President of the Mixed Commission, to develop this new organisation by establishing in Upper Silesia a "Pedagogical Academy" with special arrangements for the training of teachers for the minority schools. This Academy is to be opened in 1930 and the necessary preparations are already in hand.

(3) Referring to the attendance at the minority schools, the German Government states that the minority schools are treated by the authorities in exactly the same way as the majority schools. As Poles are received at the same time for both. There are no special entrance boards for the minority schools which could exert pressure of any kind on the persons legally responsible for the children's education. No methods of intimidation are employed by the authorities.

If, however, the minority schools are only attended by a comparatively small number of pupils, the reason is that the Polish minority in Upper Silesia feels no intellectual or economic need to give its children a Polish education. On the other hand, in view of the countless economic connections between the industrial area of Upper Silesia and other German economic centres, the minority has a vital interest in seeing that its children acquire a thorough knowledge of German. If, then, the minority does not avail itself to so large an extent as the Association of Poles would wish of its right to send its children to the minority school, that is the result of a free decision by the parents, and is in no way due to any pressure whatsoever on the part of the authorities.

The Rapporteur said he did not see how, in the light of these explanations, there could be any question of any infringement of the Geneva Convention in the case of the three schools mentioned by the petitioners in which instruction had been suspended. He further felt that the observations of the German Government made it clear that the scheme for the establishment of a training institution for future teachers had long been in contemplation and would be carried out in 1930. He did not think that the allegations to the effect that persons responsible for the children's education were subjected to pressure by the authorities could be entertained, since nothing could be decided on the basis of general assertions. He pointed out that, if circumstances should make it necessary, complaints could be addressed to the Council in each individual case.

The Council accordingly decided simply to take note of the observations of the German Government.

(b) Petition from Marya Ryborz and Felix Placzko, dated December 28th, 1928.

The petitioners submitted to the Council, under Article 147 of the Geneva Convention on Upper Silesia, a petition regarding certain incidents which are alleged to have taken place during a hearing before the Guardians Court at the Cosel District Court. A German official is alleged to have used insulting language towards the petitioners and to have forbidden them to speak Polish.

In its observations on this petition, submitted on March 18th, 1929, the German Government stated that the incidents complained of in the petition had been thoroughly investigated by the competent authorities, and that the result of the enquiry had not confirmed the assertions of the petitioners. In spite of this negative result and the fact that one of the petitioners can hardly be considered reliable, since she has already been sentenced for deliberately making a false accusation, the competent German authorities have instituted disciplinary proceedings against the official in question.

The Council decided that, in view of these explanations, it was only necessary to take note of the observations submitted by the German Government.

(c) Petition of M. Juliusz Jacek, dated December 31st, 1928.

The petitioner submitted to the Council of the League of Nations, under Article 147 of the Geneva Convention on Upper Silesia, a petition protesting against the language which
was used by a German gendarme and which, he alleged, would hurt the feelings of every Pole living in German Upper Silesia.

In a note dated March 20th, 1929, the German Government states that none of the witnesses examined has confirmed the petitioner's charges against the gendarme. It is true that it has not yet been possible to examine the person who was cited by the petitioner as able to corroborate his statements and who was apparently the only person who could be brought forward as a witness of the incident, because he left German territory some time ago. As regards the action brought against the gendarme for insults, the German Government states that the proceedings are not yet concluded, and that, if it is established that the gendarme in question made the remarks complained of, the necessary disciplinary measures will be taken against him. Lastly, the German Government observes that a member of the Polish minority, who himself sent a petition to the League of Nations in December 1928, has given evidence of his own free will, in a deposition which is annexed to the German Government's observations, stating that the behaviour of the gendarme referred to in the petition had been irreproachable.

The Council, in this instance, merely took note of the observations of the German Government.

(d) Petition from the "Deutscher Volksbund für Polnisch Schlesien", dated March 28th, 1929.

In a petition dated March 28th, 1929, and addressed direct to the Council under Article 147 of the German-Polish Convention of May 15th, 1922, relating to Upper Silesia, the "Deutscher Volksbund für Polnisch Schlesien" laid before the Council a petition regarding the dismissal of M. Pietsch from his post as manager of the "Gornolaskie Zjednoczone Huty Krolewska i. Laura Sp. Ake."

The Polish Government's observations on this petition were communicated to the Secretariat in a letter from the Polish delegation accredited to the League, dated June 8th, 1929. The petition and the Polish Government's observations were communicated to the Council in document C.271.1929.I.

The Rapporteur informed the Council that he had discussed the matter with the Polish representative, who was proposing to submit further information. The Council therefore decided to postpone consideration of the question until its next session.

(e) Petition dated March 25th, 1929, from the Association of Poles in Germany (Section I, at Oppeln).

The Association of Poles in Germany complained of the attitude of two teachers, M. Kuntz and M. Brommer, who are alleged to have forbidden Polish children to use their mother-tongue. M. Kuntz is said to have actually struck one of the pupils on the head and face because he spoke Polish in school.

The German Government's observations on this petition were forwarded to the Secretariat in a letter dated June 1st, 1929, and were communicated to the Council, together with the petition, in document C.266.1929.I. In these observations the German Government states that, in the case of the teacher Kuntz, enquiries have shown that the pupil in question was punished, not because he had spoken Polish, but for misbehaviour. Nevertheless, out of consideration for the sensitiveness of the members of the minority, the teacher has been warned to be more careful in future, in order to avoid any misunderstanding. In the case of M. Brommer, the enquiries made by the German Government have shown that various statements in the petition were incorrect. The enquiries show that M. Brommer may possibly have reprimanded a pupil for not speaking German and, accordingly, he has been seriously warned to observe, in future, the utmost restraint in his treatment of the Polish minority.

The Council in this instance took note of the information furnished by the German Government and expressed the hope that such incidents would be avoided in the future.

III. PETITION OF M. NAUMANN AND M. GRAEBE CONCERNING THE LIQUIDATION BY THE POLISH GOVERNMENT OF THE PROPERTY OF A NUMBER OF POLISH NATIONALS BELONGING TO THE GERMAN MINORITY.

This petition was placed on the agenda of the Council, at the request of the German Government, by a decision of the Council taken at the beginning of its June session, and was considered by the Council on June 14th and 15th, 1929. The Rapporteur, at the second of those meetings, expressed the view that the questions raised by the petitioners, and particularly those concerning the acquisition of Polish nationality, could be more speedily and effectively settled by direct negotiation between the Polish and German Governments. He informed the Council that the representatives of the two Governments had agreed to undertake these negotiations and to ask the acting President of the Council or his deputy to preside over them.

The negotiations were opened on July 3rd in Paris. The President of the Council has entrusted to M. Kaeckenbebeck, President of the Upper Silesian Mixed Arbitral Tribunal, the duty of presiding over the negotiations.
IV. PETITION FROM THIRTY-FOUR PERSONS OF RUSSIAN ORIGIN LIVING IN LITHUANIA REGARDING THE CONFISCATION OF THEIR LANDS UNDER THE LITHUANIAN AGRARIAN REFORM LAW OF FEBRUARY 15TH, 1922.

The representatives of Finland, Great Britain and Italy were recently called upon to examine, under the Council resolution of October 25th, 1920, a petition from thirty-four persons of Russian origin residing in Lithuania. The Lithuanian Government, to which this petition was communicated for its observations, stated that any observations it might offer would be premature, as the question was not on the agenda of the Council. It expressed itself willing to furnish in due course any explanations that might be desirable when the question came to be placed on the agenda of the Council in accordance with the normal procedure and at the request of a Member of the Council.

The representatives of Finland, Great Britain and Italy were therefore obliged to base their preliminary study of the question solely on the statements made in the petition. The petitioners allege that they were unfairly treated in comparison with other Lithuanian citizens on account of their Russian origin, a situation which might involve a danger of an infringement of the provisions of the Lithuanian declaration concerning the protection of minorities under which all Lithuanian nationals are to be regarded as equal before the law and as enjoying the same civil and political rights without distinction of race, language or religion.

In view of these allegations and of the attitude of the Lithuanian Government, the representatives of Finland, Great Britain and Italy requested the Secretary-General, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 9 of the Lithuanian declaration concerning the protection of minorities, to place the question on the agenda of the June session of the Council.

The President of the Council suggested, and the Council agreed on June 15th, that the examination of the question should be postponed till the September session, in order that the Lithuanian Government might have time to submit its observations.

S.
MANDATES.

WORK OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE PERMANENT MANDATES COMMISSION.

The Permanent Mandates Commission, at its fifteenth session, held from July 1st to 19th, 1929, examined in the presence of the accredited representatives of the mandatory Powers the following eight annual reports: New Guinea (1927-28), Nauru (1928), Togoland and Cameroons under French Mandate (1928), South West Africa (1928), Palestine (1928), Tanganyika (1928), and Syria and the Lebanon (1928).

Administrators or high officials of the territories under mandate took part, as representatives of the mandatory Powers, in the discussion on the reports on the following territories: Palestine, Tanganyika, Cameroons under French Mandate and South West Africa.

In addition to the annual reports, the Commission dealt with several questions of a general nature, particularly those regarding the treatment extended in countries Members of the League of Nations to persons belonging to territories under A and B mandates and to produce and goods therefrom, the status of the inhabitants of territories under B and C mandates and the question of public health in mandated territories.

1. TREATMENT EXTENDED IN COUNTRIES MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS TO PERSONS BELONGING TO TERRITORIES UNDER A AND B MANDATES AND TO PRODUCE AND GOODS THEREFROM.

In view of the Council’s resolution of September 1st, 1928, and after studying the question at its last two sessions, the Commission suggested to the Council to ask the mandatory Powers in charge of A and B mandates whether they considered it necessary and expedient to contemplate the conclusion of an international Convention intended to secure to the territories under A and B mandates the benefit, on a reciprocal basis, of economic equality which these territories are obliged to grant to States Members of the League of Nations, at least in respect of commercial exchanges, or whether, in their opinion, it would be preferable and sufficient for them to pursue the end in view by means of direct and bilateral negotiations.

2. STATUS OF THE INHABITANTS OF TERRITORIES UNDER B AND C MANDATES.

By a resolution dated March 5th, 1928, the Council adopted a suggestion made by the Commission to invite the mandatory Powers to inform it of the measures taken in order to
give effect to the Council's resolution of April 23rd, 1923, concerning the status of the inhabitants of territories under B and C mandates, particularly in regard to the fourth paragraph of that resolution. In view of the replies given by the mandatory Powers, the Commission thought that, at the present stage, it had no observations to make.

3. PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Commission considered the question of public health in mandated territories. In view of the shortage of doctors and public health specialists, which, according to certain mandatory Powers themselves, was one of the factors which hampered their efforts towards reform in public health, it decided to propose that the Council should ask these Powers to state their views on the following points:

(a) What are the difficulties encountered in recruiting public health officials for mandated territories?
(b) Do the mandatory Powers accept properly qualified doctors of foreign nationality as officials in their mandatory administrations? If not, would they be prepared to consider altering their policy in this connection?
(c) What qualifications do the mandatory Powers require of officials, whether nationals or foreigners, in the public health services of their mandatory administrations?
(d) Should the difficulties encountered in recruiting an adequate number of doctors who are nationals of the mandatory Power prove insuperable and should the principles of public policy absolutely preclude the engagement of foreign doctors as officials, would it be possible to encourage by more liberal subsidies the medical work of the missions operating in mandated territories?

4. REPLIES OF MANDATORY POWERS TO COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ON OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING GENERAL QUESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE COMMISSION WHEN EXAMINING THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE VARIOUS MANDATED TERRITORIES.

In order to introduce uniformity in the present diverse methods of communicating replies, the Commission resolved to beg the Council to request the mandatory Powers: 

1. To be good enough in future to comply exactly with the Council's resolution of December 9th, 1926, and for that purpose to send, as soon as possible and in the form of separate communications, their replies to the Council's resolutions regarding suggestions concerning general questions.
2. To communicate their replies to the Council's resolutions relating to observations made by the Commission when examining the annual reports, in the form of annexes to the reports for the following year.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMISSION CONCERNING CERTAIN TERRITORIES UNDER A, B AND C MANDATES.

Territories under A Mandate.

1. PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN.

In view of the considerable interest attaching to the political, economic and social development of Palestine, the Commission, while recognising that much information is to be found in certain departmental reports, expressed the wish that annual reports should contain a general and more detailed account of questions concerning public health, education and, in particular, labour.

In order to enable it to form an opinion as to whether the procedure followed is in accordance with the terms of the mandate, the Commission asked the mandatory Power to give, in the next annual report, a complete statement regarding the concession for the exploitation of the natural wealth of the Dead Sea, and also of the procedure adopted for the construction of the harbour works at Haifa.

The Commission also requested that the next annual report should contain details as regards the joint plan which the Government of Palestine was working out with the Governments of Egypt and Syria for the more expeditious detection and suppression of all illicit traffic in dangerous drugs.

As regards Trans-Jordan, the Commission hoped that future annual reports would contain very full information on the development of this part of the mandated territory, and expressed

1 After the present report had been drawn up, the accredited representative for Palestine and Trans-Jordan, acting in accordance with the right conferred upon him by Section (e) of the Constitution of the Permanent Mandates Commission, has made comments on the observations of the Commission, which have been inserted as an annex to the report of the Commission (document C.303.M.105.1929.VI) and which will be examined at the same time as the report in the course of the fifty-sixth session of the Council which opens at Geneva on August 30th, 1929.
the hope that the frontiers between Trans-Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Nejd would be demarcated on the spot as soon as possible, to the satisfaction of all concerned.

The Commission further hoped that the mandatory Power would find it possible to place at its disposal a complete collection of the laws and regulations in force in Trans-Jordan.

The Commission also expressed the wish to be assured that the measures applicable in Trans-Jordan, whereby foreigners appeared to be obliged to accept Trans-Jordan nationality as a condition of residence in the territory, did not apply to nationals of the States Members of the League of Nations.

2. SYRIA AND THE LEBANON.

The Commission attached special importance to the accredited representative’s statement concerning the conditions and circumstances in which the recent attempt to collaborate with the Syrian Constituent Assembly had failed. It hoped that, when the present opposition had died down, the mandatory Power would succeed, in agreement with the local authorities, in giving to Syria a political status which respected the provisions of the mandate.

In regard to the production of and traffic in drugs, the Commission thought it desirable to draw the attention of the mandatory Power to the necessity of strengthening the suppression by the authorities of this traffic, and urged that the mandatory Power should completely suppress, as soon as possible, the cultivation of hemp.

The Commission hoped that the mandatory Power would be able to conclude arrangements with the immigration countries of South America and prevent Syrian and Lebanese emigrants being refused admittance when they complied with the requirements of local legislation.

In view of the economic and industrial development of the country, the Commission hoped that it would be possible gradually to regulate labour conditions.

Territories under B Mandate.

1. CAMEROONS AND TOGOLAND UNDER FRENCH MANDATE.

The Commission repeated the recommendation made at its thirteenth session that the mandatory Power should see that subsidies granted by the mandated territories to institutions of the mother-country and to certain international organisations should be granted only in proportion to the benefits which the mandated territories would derive therefrom.

The Commission’s attention was drawn to the constant excessive differences between budget estimates and the actual receipts and expenditure. On this subject it obtained from the accredited representative explanations of the way in which budgets were drawn up.

With special reference to the Cameroons, the Commission, when considering the section of the report dealing with the liquor traffic, noted that the system of rationing would seem to have given good results, and was anxious to know whether the maximum authorised figure could not be reduced. The Commission also asked that the next report might contain a table showing the penalties imposed for infringement of the alcohol laws. The Commission showed itself interested also in the efforts made by the mandatory Power to combat the spread of sleeping-sickness. It further asked to be put in a position to follow closely the demographic movement of the territory.

As regards Togoland, the Commission was preoccupied about the fiscal effort demanded of the natives in order to build up reserves which are large in proportion to the whole budget, and about the financial policy of the Administration, which is inclined to charge to the ordinary budget the expenditure on major public works, such as the construction of a railway. It would like to have in the next report an account, with reasons in support, of the general financial policy of the mandatory Power, together with full information as to the taxpaying capacity of the natives in the different parts of the territory.

The Commission further noted with satisfaction the efforts made by the mandatory Power to combat leprosy and venereal disease, and asked to be kept fully informed of the steps taken and of the results obtained.

The Commission would be glad to see in the next report more exact information concerning the nature of the movements of migration in certain parts of the territory, referred to in the last report.

2. TANGANYIKA.

The Commission considered at some length the Hilton Young report, a copy of which had been sent by the British Government to every member of the Commission, and which proposed a closer union in administrative, Customs and fiscal matters between the mandated territory of Tanganyika and the neighbouring territories of Kenya and Uganda, which are under the sovereignty of Great Britain. The accredited representative informed the Commission that the British Government had not yet reached any decision on the findings of this report. In view of the importance of the proposals made in the report, from the
point of view of the provisions and principles of the mandate, the Commission drew the Council’s attention to its discussions on the subject, but did not feel that it should at this stage express a definite opinion on the findings of the report.

The Commission also asked for full information as to the conditions of purchase, by the Tanganyika administration, of the Central Railway, previously owned by a German private company.

**Territories under C Mandate.**

1. **NAURU.**

At its thirteenth session, the Commission had expressed the hope that the mandatory Power would be good enough to afford such information as would dispel the misgivings which it had felt regarding certain aspects of the administration of this territory. The Commission regretted to find that this matter was not dealt with in the 1927-28 report, or in the accompanying documents, nor yet in the mandatory Government’s reply of April 6th, 1929, to the Council. The report of the Minister for Home and Territories on his visit to the mandated territory afforded little or no information as to the conclusions at which he had arrived in regard to the general efficiency and conduct of the Administration, nor had the Commission been informed as to any action which the Australian Government might have in contemplation as a result of the confidential report which, it was understood from the accredited representative, had been submitted by the Minister. The Commission, moreover, could not ignore the statements made in other documents from official sources which tended to confirm the impression that an unsatisfactory condition, which was not of very recent origin, existed in the territory.

The Commission attached particular importance to receiving full information regarding the action which the Australian Government proposed to take with reference to the matters brought to the notice of the Minister regarding the steps to be taken to put an end to irregularities in recruiting, which the Chief Judge is reported to have described as having become a custom, and finally as to the measures taken to deal with the deplorable moral conditions prevailing among the natives, as described in the report of the Mission Conference and elsewhere.

2. **NEW GUINEA.**

The Commission noted with regret that, in spite of all its previous discussions on this subject and all the correspondence exchanged between the Council of the League of Nations and the Government of the Union of South Africa in 1927 and 1928, it had never received an explicit answer to its repeated question regarding the meaning attached by that Government to the term “full sovereignty” used to define the legal relations existing between the mandatory Power and the territory under its mandate. The Commission’s question might be formulated as follows:

“In the official view of the Government of the Union of South Africa, does the term ‘possesses sovereignty’ express only the right to exercise full powers of administration and legislation in the territory of South West Africa under the terms of the mandate and subject to its provisions and to those of Article 22 of the Covenant, or does it imply that the Government of the Union regards itself as being sovereign over the territory itself?”

The Commission proceeded to express the fear that, so long as no clear reply to this question was received, a regrettable misunderstanding would subsist, which it hoped the Council would succeed in finally clearing up.

The Commission further asked for full particulars as regards the right of the inhabitants of Walvis Bay — administered as an integral part of the mandated territory — to participate in the elections to the Parliament of the Union and in those of the Legislative Council of South West Africa, respectively.

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1 After the present report had been drawn up, the accredited representative for New Guinea, acting in accordance with the right conferred upon him by Section (e) of the Constitution of the Permanent Mandates Commission, has made comments of the observations on the Commission, which have been inserted as an annex to the report of the Commission (document C.305.M.105.1929.VI) and which will be examined at the same time as the report in the course of the fifty-sixth session of the Council which opens at Geneva on August 30th, 1929.

2 After the present report had been drawn up, the accredited representative for South West Africa, acting in accordance with the right conferred upon him by Section (e) of the Constitution of the Permanent Mandates Commission, has made comments of the observations on the Commission, which have been inserted as an annex to the report of the Commission (document C.305.M.105.1929.VI) and which will be examined at the same time as the report in the course of the fifty-sixth session of the Council which opens at Geneva on August 30th, 1929.
As regards the status of the non-native inhabitants of the territory, the Commission noted the communication forwarded by the Union Government in reply to the questions raised in the report of its fourteenth session. It regarded this question as of great importance and decided to devote further study to it at its next session.

The Commission noted that no information had been received regarding the steps taken by the mandatory Power to amend the South West Africa Railways and Harbours Act (No. 20) of 1922 in order to bring the legal regime of the railways and harbours into conformity with the principles of the mandate and of the Treaty of Versailles and the decision taken by the Council of the League of Nations on June 9th, 1926. The accredited representative, however, informed the Commission that a communication might shortly be expected on this subject.

The Commission also noted the financial statement concerning the working of the railways included in the annual report, but would be glad if future reports could contain fuller details on the subject, particularly in regard to cases in which the Government of the mandated territory had promised or guaranteed subsidies for the working of railways or harbours.

The Commission also asked that the next annual report should contain information on the internal organisation of the native reserves.

The Commission expressed appreciation of the constant efforts made by the Administration and by the mining companies to reduce the mortality in the mines amongst native workers from the north of the territory. It hoped that the causes of this high mortality would be discovered, and thought that it would thus be possible to carry on the work of the mines under more satisfactory conditions.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON PETITIONS.

The Commission examined various petitions and came to the conclusions summarised herewith:

1. PALESTINE.

(a) The Commission considered three petitions relating to the "Wailing Wall" of Jerusalem, from the "General Moslem Conference", from the "Supreme Moslem Council" and from Emir Chéikib Arslan, M. Ihsan el Djibri and M. Riad el Souhl. The Commission referred to and repeated its previous recommendations as to the advantages of an agreement freely entered into under the auspices of the mandatory Power, in regard to the rights of the Jewish and Moslem communities over the precincts of the Wailing Wall. Failing such an agreement, it appreciated the care with which the mandatory Power is ensuring the maintenance of the status quo.

The Commission further noted the statements submitted by the mandatory Power on the existing legal enactments regarding expropriation on grounds of public utility, and thought that the fears expressed on this subject by the petitioners were groundless.

(b) The Commission considered two petitions regarding Trans-Jordan from the inhabitants of Kerak and Ajolun, dated November 24th, 1928, complaining of the mandatory Power's administration and protesting against the treaty concluded between the British Government and the Emir of Trans-Jordan. Consideration of the various points raised in these petitions, with the exception of the question of the Hejaz Railway, which has been dealt with in connection with another petition, and the explanations offered by the mandatory Power, led the Commission to believe that the complaints submitted by the petitioners were not of a nature to call for any action.

(c) The Commission considered that the letter dated May 29th, 1929, and the memorandum on the development of the Jewish National Home in 1928, from the Zionist Organisation, together with the British Government's observations thereon, did not seem to give occasion for the insertion of any recommendation in the Commission's report to the Council.

2. PALESTINE AND SYRIA.

In commenting upon the petition from the Emir Chéikib Arslan, dated November 5th, 1928, relating to the Hejaz Railway and the disarmament of the population of the Jebel Druse, the Commission remarked that the provisions and proposals made by the mandatory Powers concerned with the administration and operation of the Hejaz Railway were such as would not seem to conflict with the religious aspirations of the Moslem population. The Commission was therefore unable to comply with the wishes of the petitioners, and added that, in its opinion, the Moslem population of the mandated territories concerned would be well advised, in the interests of the resumption of traffic on the Hejaz Railway and of improved conditions in pilgrim transport, to associate themselves with the efforts made by the mandatory Powers to settle this matter in a manner most favourable to the interests of all concerned.

As regards the disarmament of the Jebel Druse, the Commission decided that, in view of the information given in the petition and of the observations made by the mandatory Power, there was no ground for action to be taken.

3. SYRIA AND THE LEBANON.

(a) Having examined, in the light of the mandatory Power's observations and the supplementary particulars supplied by the accredited representative in the course of the
session, the petitions from the Committee of the Syro-Palestinian Congress, dated April 19th and May 20th, 1929, and from certain inhabitants of Damascus and Cairo, dated April 3rd, 1929, regarding the incidents which occurred at Homs in the spring of 1929, the Commission considered that these petitions did not call for any action on the part of the Council.

(b) The Commission, after having examined the petitioner's allegations and the mandatory Power's observations, considered that no action could be taken on the petition of M. Soubeil el Attar, dated April 14th, 1929, regarding the abuse he had suffered when arrested in the course of the demonstrations on August 12th, 1928, at Damascus.

c) As regards the petition presented by certain inhabitants of Hama, dated October 20th, 1928, protesting against the alleged prohibition of a public meeting to be held in memory of Dr. Saleh Combaz, who was killed during the incidents at Hama in 1925, the Commission, having noted the mandatory Power's statements that the public meeting convened by the complainants was not prohibited and that the intervention of the authorities only took the form of persuasion, considered that no action could be taken on the petition.

4. CAMEROONS AND TOGOLAND UNDER FRENCH MANDATE, TANGANYIKA AND RUANDA-URUNDI.

The Commission considered a petition from the “Bureau international pour la defense des indigenes”, dated May 20th, 1928, regarding certain allegations contained in Mr. M. R. Buell's work entitled: *The Native Problem in Africa*. Having examined the observations of the mandatory Powers concerned, and received further supplementary information during its fifteenth session from the accredited representatives of these Powers on certain points, the Commission considered that the observations of the author of the work in question cited in the petition were either without foundation or had been the subject of investigation by the Commission, and were not of a nature to justify any intervention by the Council.

5. CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH MANDATE.

The Commission had before it a petition from Mr. Gogo Briggs, dated July 5th, 1928, communicated by the French Government, regarding a civil suit. As no new facts had been adduced which could have led the Commission to reconsider the decision, taken by its Chairman, and approved by the Commission during its thirteenth session, to reject a petition dated November 23rd, 1927, coming from the same source and dealing with the same subject, the Commission thought that no action should be taken.

6. TOGOLAND UNDER BRITISH MANDATE.

The Commission examined a petition dated July 9th, 1928, from the inhabitants of Wome (Togoland under French mandate) regarding the situation of lands possessed by these natives in the neighbouring territory of Togoland under British mandate. The Commission, while reserving the right to consider the complete and final delimitation of the frontier, when submitted to it, noted the mandatory Power's statement that “thus the inhabitants of Wome would continue to enjoy the possession of their farms, even though these lay on the British side of the frontier, and their fears lest they should be deprived of their property were groundless” and expressed the hope that the agreement between the tribes would be promptly signed by the respective chiefs and that the question would thus be amicably settled.

7. TOGOLAND UNDER FRENCH MANDATE.

The Commission considered a petition from the “Bund der Deutsch Togoländer”, dated July 11th, 1928, regarding the appointment of certain notables as representatives of Togoland and asking that this territory should be restored to German administration. The Commission proposed to reply to the petitioner's that their allegations had not been found to be correct, and as regards the concluding paragraph of the petition, which contained a request incompatible with the terms of the mandate, the Commission considered this to be outside its competence.

8. SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

(a) The Commission examined the petition from Mr. Dewdney Drew, dated August 9th, 1928, on the grievances of the Rehoboths. It proposed that Mr. Drew should be informed that the Commission had already recorded its opinion, which had been accepted by the Council, that “the grievances of the Rehoboths had been fully investigated and had now lost their relevance”, and that it did not think it necessary to reopen the question or to take any action on Mr. Drew's letter.

(b) The Commission thought that a petition from M. A. Bergmann, dated July 15th, 1928, regarding the alleged unsatisfactory sanitary conditions in the diamond mines and the ill-treatment suffered by the natives, called for no action on its part, seeing that it contained no matter which would warrant its consideration.
9.

SLAVERY.

On September 22nd, 1927, at its eighth ordinary session, the Assembly adopted a resolution expressing the hope that the States which had signed the Convention of September 25th, 1926, would ratify it as soon as possible. On November 8th, 1927, the Secretary-General sent a circular letter to all States Members of the League of Nations reminding them of this resolution. On May 16th, 1929, since the report to the tenth Assembly was drawn up, the Estonian Government deposited with the Secretariat its instrument of ratification of this Convention.

Further, at its session on June 10th, 1929, the Council noted which States had ratified the Convention in question since the last session of the Assembly, namely, the German Government, which deposited its instrument of ratification with the Secretariat on March 12th, 1929, and the Iraq and United States Governments, which communicated their accessions on December 9th, 1928, and March 21st, 1929, respectively. The Council's attention was especially drawn to the reservation accompanying the accession of the United States which did not constitute a limitation of the obligations assumed under the Convention.

By a resolution dated September 25th, 1926, the Assembly requested the Council to communicate to it each year a list of the laws and regulations, together with any supplementary information, furnished by the States Members of the League in accordance with Article 7 of the Slavery Convention on the measures taken by them to ensure the progressive abolition of slavery and conditions analogous thereto. In conformity with the terms of this resolution the Council, at its meeting held on June 10th, 1929, received the following information, which it decided to communicate to the Assembly (document A.17.1929.VI.):

(1) Letter from the British Government, dated October 13th, 1928, forwarding a memorandum on the steps taken in Palestine, Trans-Jordan, the Straits Settlements, Sarawak, the Falkland Isles, Sierra Leone and Fiji, to ensure the effective abolition of slavery in these territories.

(2) Letter from the Spanish Government, dated February 15th, 1929, regarding the steps taken to combat the slave trade along the frontiers of Spanish Guinea.

(3) Letter from the Sudan Government, dated April 4th, 1929, on the steps taken for the effective abolition of slavery in its territory.

(4) Letter from the Portuguese Government, dated May 7th, 1929, regarding Portuguese colonial legislation in Africa designed to ensure the effective abolition of slavery in its Colonies.

(5) Letter from the British Government, dated May 29th, 1929, concerning the social and economic effects of the Legal Status of Slavery (Abolition) Ordinance (1927) in the Sierra Leone Protectorate.

Further the Council authorised the Secretary-General to communicate direct to the Assembly, three weeks before the opening of its tenth session, any other communications he might receive in the interval, in virtue of the aforesaid resolution.

In conformity with the instructions of the Council, the Secretary-General has just communicated to the Assembly a report from the Government of India dated July 31st, 1929, on the measures taken to abolish slavery in Burma (document A.17(a).1929.VI).

10.

WORK OF THE TECHNICAL ORGANISATIONS.

I. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ORGANISATION.

A. WORK OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE.

1. REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON THE WORK OF ITS SECOND SESSION.

The Council, during its June session, considered the report of the Economic Consultative Committee on the work of its second session held at Geneva from May 6th to 11th, 1929. This report was included in the general report to the Assembly (document A.6.1929, pages 72-85).
The Council noted the report and referred it for study to the Economic Committee.

The Economic Committee was unable, at its July session, to embark on any detailed discussion of the questions raised in the report, but arranged for preparatory work upon them to be undertaken immediately.

2. PROPOSAL OF THE ECONOMIC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS.

The Economic Consultative Committee, in its report on the work of its second session, held in May 1929, suggested that the League of Nations should appoint a small number of qualified agricultural experts to be associated with the Economic Organisation in such a way as to make their assistance most practical and effective (document A.6.1929, page 82).

The Council in June devoted special attention to this proposal. The Italian representative observed that reference had been made in the Minutes of the Consultative Committee to the establishment of a permanent Committee of agricultural experts. Such a Committee would, in his view, be superfluous. He pointed out that the Economic Committee already had the right to consult qualified experts on any problems it wished to study, and that the International Institute of Agriculture was prepared to furnish the Economic Committee with all necessary information, advice and statistics. The German representative, acting as Rapporteur, replied that the Consultative Committee had merely recommended that a small number of competent agricultural experts should be attached to the Economic Organisation to assist it as practically and effectively as possible, and he proposed that this recommendation should be referred to the Economic Committee, together with the observations of the Italian representative.

The Council approved this suggestion, and further decided that the International Institute of Agriculture should be invited to send a representative, for consultation and discussion, when the question of appointing a Committee of agricultural experts came up for discussion before the Economic Committee.

The Economic Committee, in accordance with this decision, desired, during its July session, to hear the views of the President of the International Institute of Agriculture, who, however, was prevented by illness from accepting the invitation of the Committee. In these circumstances the Committee decided to adjourn the question to its next session.

3. COAL.

The Council, during its June session, considered the interim report of the Economic Committee on the coal problem. This report was summarised in the general report to the Assembly (document A.6.1929, pages 65 and 66). The Council noted that the Economic Committee considered it necessary to hold further consultations on a wider basis, and approved this suggestion.

The Economic Committee accordingly decided in July that a joint meeting of experts, including experts from consuming countries, acquainted with the views both of the producers' and of the workers' organisations should be convened for September 30th, 1929. It will be one of the objects of this meeting to inform the Economic Committee of any changes which have taken place in the international coal situation since the previous consultation, and to examine and discuss the principal ideas contained in the interim report.

The Economic Committee was informed, in July, of what had been done, and of what might be further undertaken, under the auspices of the International Labour Organisation, regarding hours and conditions of labour. The Committee considers that, in dealing with the general problem of the coal industry in all its aspects, there should be permanent co-operation between the Economic Organisation and the International Labour Organisation and that, while each of these bodies must, in virtue of its general character, be especially occupied with certain aspects of the problem, it should make every effort in its power to secure the participation of the other in its enquiries and consultations.

4. SUGAR.

The Economic Committee, during its July session, adopted a preliminary report on the world sugar situation based on the consultations with experts, to which reference was made in the general report to the Assembly (document A.6.1929, pages 66 and 67).

The report gives a brief account of the circumstances in which the enquiry into the world sugar situation was undertaken, at the invitation of the Economic Consultative Committee, in May 1928. The Committee has obtained a large amount of documentary evidence through its own members, from various national sources, from the Secretariat of the League and from the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. Special memoranda were prepared by eminent sugar statisticians and there were several oral consultations with experts in sugar manufacture and refining and in the cultivation of the beet.

The Committee contemplates no further consultations in the immediate future and has seen no cause to modify the views it expressed in January 1929 (see document A.6.1929, page 66).
The report deals with the special characteristics of the sugar industry and with measures taken by the Governments to protect the industry within domestic or imperial frontiers.

The Committee limits itself to the following conclusions:

1. The difficulties with which the industry is at present beset are such as can, to a large extent, either remedy themselves, or be remedied by those responsible for the conduct of business.

2. We do not consider, therefore, that we are called upon to express a view concerning the relative merits of the various proposals for purely private action which have been put forward.

3. Though it is true that the majority of the experts—representatives both of industry and of agriculture—were of opinion that in existing circumstances the conclusion of a Convention between States, based on the principles of the Brussels Convention, would not be likely to provide a solution for the crisis, all were agreed in recognising that the difficulties have been accentuated by the measures taken in many countries to stimulate the production of sugar, without consideration of the effects of their unco-ordinated action on the world situation.

4. It is possible that action by producers in accordance with an agreed plan might render superfluous some of the artificial measures by which the sugar industry benefits in certain countries. Should that be so, the time might have come for the States concerned to submit the regime they have established to encourage the production or sale of sugar to a fresh examination, giving due regard to the essential interests of agriculture; and, should they find themselves unable to modify this regime without other countries acting similarly, to make known their views in regard to the taking of joint action.

5. For the rest, the Economic Committee will continue to watch carefully the further developments of the sugar question in order to be in a position to furnish the Council at any moment with information enabling it to judge whether concerted international action could further the solution of the problems under consideration.

6. Finally, we venture to suggest to the Council that the attention of Governments should be drawn to the desirability of ascertaining whether there is any possibility of lowering their excise duties on sugar, without adversely affecting their fiscal position.

5. INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL COMBINATIONS.

The Economic Committee, during its July session, received information regarding the work of the legal experts on this subject.

With regard to the economic aspects of the problem, the Committee learnt with interest that the Secretariat was continuing and extending the investigations already undertaken into the form, subject and economic importance of existing industrial combinations, so far as official information and particulars obtained from persons interested in the League's economic work permitted. Further, with reference to its decision at its session in January 1929 (document A.6.1929, page 70), the Committee considered that it was desirable to draw up as soon as possible a programme of investigation into the economic aspects of the problem, in accordance with the recommendations of the International Economic Conference and those made by the Consultative Committee at the two sessions it had so far held. Following the suggestion made by the Consultative Committee at its last session, to the effect that it would be desirable to secure the help of experts in the study of these complicated problems, the Committee decided that, as soon as the programme of work had been drawn up, the Secretariat should receive the co-operation of two experts particularly qualified to assist it in apprehending the whole range of issues arising out of the problem.

6. TREATMENT OF FOREIGNERS.

The Council, during its June session, appointed M. Albert Devéze (Belgium) as President of the International Conference on the Treatment of Foreigners, which will meet on November 5th, 1929.

The Council further decided that the Economic Committee and the International Chamber of Commerce should be invited to send representatives to the Conference in an advisory capacity, and the Economic Committee has accordingly appointed three of its members to attend.

7. BILLS OF EXCHANGE.

The Council noted in June that thirty-two States had informed the Secretariat that they considered that the draft Convention drawn up by the experts on bills of exchange and cheques would serve as a basis for discussion at a conference to be held shortly. The proposals of the experts were summarised in the general report to the Assembly (document A.6.1929, page 68).
The Council decided that the Secretariat should be authorised to summon the Conference as soon as its technical preparation was sufficiently advanced. The Economic Committee, during its session in July, accordingly reviewed the preparatory documents which the Secretariat had compiled with the assistance of Professor Percerou, Chairman of the Committee of Experts. The Committee thought, after examining these texts, that the technical preparations might now be regarded as adequate, and that the Conference might be convened during the first quarter of the year 1930.

8. Diseases of Plants.

The Economic Committee was informed by the Secretariat in July of the outcome of the International Conference for the Protection of Plants, held at Rome from April 10th to 16th, 1929, under the auspices of the International Institute of Agriculture.

It noted the importance of certain provisions of the Convention from the point of view of international trade. Before, however, undertaking any more detailed enquiry into the commercial aspect of the question, the Committee prefers to wait until it has had an opportunity of conferring with the International Institute of Agriculture as to how far any extension of international action in this matter is desirable and expedient, and as to the lines on which the action and work connected therewith could best be divided between the two bodies.


By a resolution of the eighth Assembly, dated September 23rd, 1927, the Economic Committee was entrusted with the task of examining, in co-operation particularly with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, at Copenhagen, "whether and in what terms, for what species and in what areas, international protection of marine fauna could be established",

The Economic Committee, accordingly, undertook preliminary enquiries bearing upon species of economic importance, with a view to submitting to the Council a report containing such recommendations as might provide a remedy for any particular situation which seemed to call for international action.

The Committee got into touch with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, at Copenhagen, which, through its experts, furnished very valuable data on the problems falling within the Assembly resolution and referred to the Committee.

The Committee was thus enabled to reach detailed conclusions in regard to fish, seals and whales, having decided to limit its investigations to these species, owing to their economic importance.

The Committee explains why only whaling would appear to lend itself to international action, which is even a matter of some urgency, as was shown by the conclusions of the Copenhagen Council at its last session in April 1929.

Nevertheless, the Committee is not yet in a position to reply to the question put to it by the Assembly resolution, even when confined to whales, that is to say, "whether, and in what terms and in what areas, international protection of whales could be established". For this purpose it appeared essential to consult experts belonging to the principal countries concerned, and the Committee proposes to convene a meeting of such experts at an early date.

10. Smuggling.

The circumstances in which the Economic Committee was asked to undertake an enquiry into the prevention of smuggling in general, and the smuggling of alcohol in particular, were noted in the general report to the Assembly (document A.6.1929, page 69).

The Committee has endeavoured to collect the fullest possible information on the subject. It has, more particularly, examined the conventions concluded on smuggling, and especially the most recent and typical examples, in order to ascertain what has already been done in this field and what possibilities may remain.

The Committee reviewed the progress of these investigations during its July session.

The conventions relating to smuggling may be divided into two groups—those dealing with the prevention of smuggling in general and those aiming at the prevention of liquor smuggling.

The Committee thus found it necessary to make a careful examination of a very large number of bilateral and multilateral agreements, and came to the conclusion that, while bilateral conventions designed to keep down or prevent smuggling across land frontiers were fairly numerous and very detailed as between countries with a common frontier, those that aimed at suppressing or restricting smuggling by sea were less numerous, less comprehensive and less detailed.

The Committee also found that the multilateral conventions related to the smuggling of special commodities (liquor, arms, narcotics, etc.) and that, as a general rule, they applied only to specified areas.

No example of a multilateral convention for the suppression of smuggling in general could be named, and the proposals made to the Committee regarding certain aspects of the problem
did not find support. The Committee therefore thought it might conclude that the interest of States in this matter had so far been special and local, although all countries with a maritime frontier had to carry on a more or less extensive campaign against smuggling along their coasts.

The question assumed a different aspect when it was limited to smuggling by sea. The interests at stake were then no longer, as in the case of smuggling by land, only those of countries with a common frontier; the international character of the question was much more pronounced, and, when it was remembered that countries with no maritime frontier might nevertheless have ships flying their flag, the scope of the question became yet wider.

Be that as it might, the Economic Committee considered that it should supplement its present information, in order to be in a position to judge whether any international action appeared advisable in regard to this question.

The Committee instructed the Secretariat to collect all information bearing on these points.

With regard to the problem of liquor smuggling, the Committee was informed that the Finnish Government did not wish a report to be submitted to the Council until a later date, having regard to the fact that Finland was one of the countries most interested in the question, and that its delegation to the Ninth Assembly was one of those which brought forward the Assembly resolution already referred to, the Economic Committee felt that, for the time being, it should not make a report to the Council on this particular point.

B. WORK OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE.

1. Greece.

The Chairman of the Financial Committee announced to the Council, at the meeting held on June 14th, 1929, that the Financial Committee had discussed the programme of future work, at its June session, with the Vice-President of the Greek Refugee Settlement Office. As stated in the twenty-second quarterly report, the Settlement Office contemplated that its final liquidation might take place in the second quarter of 1930. As a first step, certain services were to be transferred during the coming months. The Council noted this decision.

At the same session, the Financial Committee heard statements from M. Mantzavinos and from M. Diomede, the Governor of the Bank of Greece, with regard to the activities of the Bank during its first year, and examined the question of the centralisation at that Bank of the various public funds.

2. Bulgaria.

(a) Budget.

The Financial Committee, after examining the fifth report of the Minister for Finance, was glad to be able to inform the Council of the continuance of the substantial progress made last year.

(b) National Bank.

While appreciating the progress made in the reforms recommended by the Protocol and by the new Statutes, the Financial Committee considered the position of the Bank, with reference to the special conditions existing in Bulgaria and urged the necessity of adhering to a cautious policy.


The Financial Committee pointed out to the Council at its last session that the Agreement of December 9th, 1927, regarding Greco-Bulgarian emigration (Molloff-Caphandaris Agreement) was now being carried out. The Greek Government had made the first payment due under this Agreement, the sum in question being relatively large.

M. de Chalendar, Chairman of the Financial Committee, who was present at the meeting of the Council, congratulated the Greek Government, and the British representative associated himself with these remarks, declaring at the same time that the carrying out of the Agreement was a most important measure from the standpoint of the maintenance of good relations between Bulgaria and Greece.

The Greek representative declared that his Government would certainly appreciate the Council’s congratulations. It had been necessary to overcome some very real difficulties in order to start giving effect to the Agreement. The Greek Government had thought it desirable once again to give proof of its entire respect for its promises, in the hope that the subsequent recovery of the sums which were due to it would enable it to continue to discharge its obligations punctually.

The Bulgarian representative informed the Council that negotiations were proceeding in regard to questions which were still pending between Greece and Bulgaria. He hoped that those negotiations would shortly lead to an agreement.
4. HUNGARY.

The Council, at its June session, noted that Mr. Royall Tyler's duties as representative of the trustees of the Hungarian Loan and administrator of the balance of that loan would terminate at the end of June 1929.

The representative of the Hungarian Government thanked Mr. Royall Tyler for the distinguished manner in which he had fulfilled his task for five years, and assured him that Hungary would remember him with feelings of gratitude and cordiality.

The Council associated itself with the Rapporteur, and extended its thanks and congratulations to Mr. Royall Tyler.

5. ESTONIA.

The Financial Committee noted a statement by the Technical Adviser to the Eesti Pank with regard to the development of the banking situation in Estonia.

6. FREE CITY OF DANZIG.

The Financial Committee took note of the fourth annual report of the Trustee for the Municipality of Danzig 7% Mortgage Loan of 1925. This report required no action on the part of the Council.

7. SAAR BASIN — PROPOSED GOVERNING COMMISSION LOAN.

It will be remembered that, on December 13th, 1928, the Council requested the Financial Committee to examine, in collaboration with the Governing Commission of the Saar Territory, the loan scheme proposed by the latter. In March, the Financial Committee announced that, as certain technical problems had arisen in connection with the loan, it was necessary for it to go into them more fully, and it hoped to be able to make definite proposals at its June session. Accordingly, the Committee informed the Council at the meeting held on June 14th, 1929, that, having examined the loan scheme, it would be ready to make a report as soon as the Council decided that it was desirable to consider the question.

The German representative asked that, in view of the importance of the question, it should be adjourned until the September session of the Council.

The Chairman of the Governing Commission of the Saar, Sir Ernest Wilton, pointed out that this adjournment might give rise to disappointment in the Saar territory, and hoped that it might be possible to arrive at a favourable solution in September.

The Council decided that the matter should be adjourned until its September session.

8. FISCAL COMMITTEE.

At the Council meeting on June 14th, 1929, the representative of Cuba, Rapporteur, recalled that, in December 1928, the Council had decided to create a Fiscal Committee. He announced that he was now able to propose the names of twelve titular members of that Committee for a period of three years.

The Council appointed these titular members, authorised its President, in agreement with the Rapporteur, to appoint, as titular members also, a person belonging to a South American country and an Asiatic country, respectively, and asked the International Chamber of Commerce to appoint a representative to assist in an advisory capacity in the work of the Fiscal Committee whenever invited by the Chairman to do so. The corresponding members of the Fiscal Committee were also appointed.

The list of members is as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Titular Members</th>
<th>Corresponding Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professor Thomas S. Adams, M. H. Blau, Dr. Gino Bolaffi, Professor Dr. H. Dorn, Professor Dr. Flores de Lémus, M. Mantzavinos, Dr. J. H. R. Singinghe Damste, Sir Percy Thompson, K.B.E., C.B.</td>
<td>Mr. A. F. Corbett, Dr. Egger, Colonel James Jacob Esson, M. E. S. von der Hude, M. Fr. Kempels, Mr. W. Kent, Wacław Koszko, Dr. G. W. de Kuylensterna, M. Lademann, Dr. Flores de Lémus, M. mantzavinos, Dr. J. H. R. Singinghe Damste, Sir Percy Thompson, K.B.E., C.B.</td>
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9. WORK OF THE CONFERENCE FOR THE ADOPTION OF A CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF COUNTERFEITING CURRENCY.

At its meeting on June 14th, 1929, the Council took cognisance of the results of the Conference for the Suppression of Counterfeiting Currency. The Council authorised the Secretary-General to communicate copies of the Convention to the following States non-members of the League, which were not represented at the Conference: Costa Rica, Egypt, Iceland, Liechtenstein, San Marino and Mexico.

The Council further approved the recommendation that, as soon as fifteen Central Police Offices had been created by the signatory States to deal with counterfeiting, it should take the initiative in calling together the first Conference of these Central Offices.

10. COUNTERFEITING SECURITIES.

On the proposal of the representative of Cuba, Rapporteur, the Council, on June 14th, 1929, approved a proposal by the Conference on Counterfeiting Currency recommending that the League of Nations should consider the desirability of preparing an International Convention for the suppression of counterfeiting other securities (share and debenture certificates, cheques, bills of exchange, etc.) and stamps used as instruments of payment.

The Council accordingly referred the question for report to the Financial Committee, which is investigating the subject.

11. PURCHASING POWER OF GOLD.

The Financial Committee considered that, in view of recent developments, it was desirable to postpone for the moment the final constitution of the Special Committee decided upon by the Council "to examine into and report upon the causes of fluctuations in the purchasing power of gold and their effect on the economic life of the nations". The Committee proposed to proceed with the work by appointing a delegation of its own members with the adjunction of a few experts of international authority.

This delegation is composed as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Members of the Financial Committee</th>
<th>Other members</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>M. DE CHALENDAR,</td>
<td>Professor BENEDUCE,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. M. A. JANSEN,</td>
<td>Professor CASSEL,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR. F. MLYNARSKI,</td>
<td>Sir Reginald MANT,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR. V. POSPIŠIL,</td>
<td>Professor SPRAGUE,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sir Henry STRAKOSCH.</td>
<td>Dr. TRIP.</td>
</tr>
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The delegation will meet at Geneva on August 26th, 1929.

II. ORGANISATION FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSIT.

A. TRANSPORT BY RAIL.

The arbitrators appointed by the Council to enquire into the dispute between the Sopron-Kőszeg Local Railway Company and the Austrian and Hungarian Governments have completed their work, and rendered their award on June 18th, 1929.

The Chairman of the Advisory and Technical Committee has, at the Council's request, arranged for experts to enquire into other disputes of a similar nature.

Further efforts have been made to settle the disputes between the Boldva Valley Local Railway Company and the Hungarian and Czechoslovak Governments by conciliation. Should no settlement have been reached by August 15th, arbitrators have been nominated to decide the matter.

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1 For a summary of the work of the Conference, see the general report to the Assembly, document A.6.1929, page 91.
2 In addition to the twenty-six States enumerated in the general report to the Assembly as having signed the Convention, the United States Government also signed it on July 21st, 1929.
B. INLAND NAVIGATION.

The Committee for the Unification of River Law met at Vienna on June 17th and drew up the final texts to be submitted to the Conference mentioned in the general report to the Assembly (document A.6.1929). These texts include a draft convention relating to certain questions of river law (registration, mortgages, liens), a draft convention concerning administrative measures for attesting the nationality of vessels employed on inland waterways and a draft convention with regard to the unification of certain regulations concerning collisions on inland waterways.

C. MARITIME NAVIGATION.

D. ROAD TRAFFIC.

There is no further development to report under either of these heads.

E. AIR NAVIGATION.

In view of the results of an extraordinary session held by the International Commission for Air Navigation in conjunction with the representatives of a certain number of countries not represented on this Commission, it seems probable that after a further examination of the position, a satisfactory settlement of certain questions relating to the international organisation of air navigation in Europe can be achieved. The Advisory Committee, however, thinks it possible and desirable to postpone, until the early part of 1930, the convening of the special Committee to enquire into the international organisation of air navigation and co-operation between the civil aviation undertakings of the various countries.

A large amount of material, moreover, will have to be got ready for this meeting if the Committee is to be instrumental in bringing about any considerable improvement in the direction of the more rational and more international organisation of air navigation. Consequently, enquiries should be undertaken with a view to furnishing the Committee with accurate information as to the economic results of civil aviation, the efforts already made to promote co-operation between air navigation undertakings, the relations between civil and military aviation, the progress of international law regarding air traffic, the administrative organisation of civil aviation in various countries, and the relations between Governments and civil aviation undertakings. This information will doubtless enable the Committee to examine the problem — the connection of certain aspects of which, with the reduction of armaments, has not been overlooked by the Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference. The question of a more effective co-operation between the civil aviation undertakings of the various nations was raised by that Commission in the course of its enquiries.

F. BROADCASTING QUESTIONS.

In accordance with the resolution adopted by the Advisory and Technical Committee, the latter has continued to be represented at the technical meetings of international organisations dealing with broadcasting.

G. GENERAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING VARIOUS MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

(a) Passports and Identity Documents.

The European Conference on Cards for Emigrants in Transit met on June 10th, 1929, and resulted in the conclusion of an Agreement abolishing visas for emigrants in transit, these visas to be replaced by cards issued by shipping companies. The following States and territories were represented at the Conference: Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Free City of Danzig, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Roumania, Saar Territory, Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Switzerland.

The Agreement was signed on behalf of the Governments of the following countries: Belgium, France, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Saar Territory. It was signed _ad referendum_ on behalf of the Governments of the following countries: Free City of Danzig, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Roumania, Switzerland.

The Agreement does not require ratification; the number of signatures obtained will enable it to come into force on September 12th, 1929.

(b) Reform of the Calendar.

Enquiries relating to the simplification of the Gregorian calendar are being more and more actively pursued. As regards the formation of the National Committees of Enquiry, we would state, in addition to the information given in the general report to the Assembly (document A.6.1929), that the National Committee of the United States of America has completed its work, and its report is expected very shortly; that the report of the French National Economic Council will probably be received before the end of the year; that the constitution of the Netherlands National Committee appears to be on the point of completion; that National Committees have been formed in Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Salvador. Consequently, it is probable that, before the end of the year, most countries will
have either constituted their National Committees or have had the necessary enquiries set on foot by organisations already in existence. The Belgian Government has transmitted the report of a committee set up by the Belgian Academy of Sciences.

The movement in favour both of the general simplification of the calendar and of the stabilisation or fixing of Easter appears to be attracting an ever-increasing amount of attention in economic circles. The International Chamber of Commerce, at its Congress held in Amsterdam in July 1929, adopted the following resolution:

"The Congress of the International Chamber of Commerce, earnestly desiring that the date of Easter should be fixed without delay and that the calendar should be reformed, reaffirms at its fifth Congress in Amsterdam its previous resolutions of the first Congress in London, 1921, the second Congress at Rome, 1923, and the third Congress at Brussels, 1925.

"The Chamber notes with satisfaction that several nations, at the instance of the League of Nations, have organised special Committees to study calendar improvement and the fixing of Easter.

"The Chamber urges that other nations should follow that same practical course and that the League should convene an international Conference to secure, without further delay, the improvement for which the world’s commerce has so often asked."

It should be added that the International Labour Conference of 1928 also emphasised the importance which it attached to these enquiries.

As regards the question of Easter, the final decision appears to rest with the religious authorities. In this connection we would refer to the Bill introduced in England for the stabilisation of Easter, based on the League Committee’s proposals. We are also unofficially informed that it is proposed to hold an Ecumenical Council in the near future. According to the statements made by the Holy See and transmitted to the Committee for the Reform of the Calendar, a decision regarding Easter can only be reached by the Holy See after hearing the opinion of the Ecumenical Council.

In these circumstances, it would appear that the various national enquiries as to the reform of the calendar should be completed during 1930; that if the international Conference advocated by the International Chamber of Commerce in its resolution is to be convened, it is important, more especially as regards the question of Easter, that this Conference, which is doubtless not expected to reach definite decisions but merely to co-ordinate and define the views of the various bodies concerned, should be held at a comparatively early date. It does not appear possible, however, to convene it before 1931, in which year the Fourth General Conference on Communications and Transit is also to meet.

H. COMMUNICATIONS OF IMPORTANCE TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AT TIMES OF EMERGENCY.

(a) Wireless Station.

The supplementary enquiries concerning the question of the wireless station have been completed, and the results are given in a special report to the Assembly.

(b) Facilities accorded to Aircraft employed for the Purpose of ensuring Air Communications of Importance to the League.

At its last session, the International Commission for Air Navigation adopted texts to be inserted in the International Convention relating to Air Navigation, defining the special legal status of aircraft employed for the purpose of ensuring air communications of importance to the League, i.e., the transport of delegations to the League or their mail or of the League’s agents or mail.

The proposed provisions permit of the employment either of aircraft registered with the League and not in any State, or of aircraft registered in some State and temporarily placed at the League’s disposal. The special marks to be assigned in either case to these aircraft would, in practice, enable them to be granted the necessary facilities.

The International Commission for Air Navigation has completed the examination of the texts concerning the regulations applicable in normal times to these aircraft.

As regards times of emergency, the text drawn up by the Legal Sub-Committee of the International Commission for Air Navigation merely stipulated that, both as regards supervision and the routes to be followed, the greatest possible facilities should be granted to these aircraft, so as to enable the League to accomplish its task as quickly as possible, it being understood, moreover, that the Secretary-General of the League would endeavour to notify sufficiently in advance and by some suitable means States, whose territory was to be flown over, of the identification marks on the said aircraft, together with the proposed route and persons on board.

Since this text was prepared, the International Commission for Air Navigation has proposed an amendment to one of the articles of the Convention relating to these aircraft, to the effect that, unless otherwise stipulated, any State would have the right at any moment to prohibit the flight over its territory of all foreign aircraft, including aircraft effecting transport of importance to the League.

In view of this new proposal, one delegation suggested that it should be clearly stipulated in the Convention that aircraft effecting transport of importance to the League should have
the right of passage at all times, including times of emergency, and that the proposed flight restrictions should not apply to them.

The question is to be re-examined by the International Commission for Air Navigation in the autumn. The Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit, through its representatives on the International Commission for Air Navigation — which is under the League’s authority — has always understood that the Assembly desired that air communications of importance to the League, namely, those connected with the transport of the League’s Secretariat and agents and of delegations, should be ensured at all times, more especially at times of emergency.

The Assembly, which has already, by its resolution of September 26th, 1927, “asserted that it is the obligation of the States Members of the League of Nations to facilitate by every means in their power the rapid meeting of the Council at times of emergency”, should perhaps be asked to express its opinion on this question, which is of a non-technical nature. It is, of course, precisely at times of serious emergency, when there is a risk of communications by land being partly disorganised, that air transport may be of the greatest importance to the League.

(c) Installation of an Aerodrome in the Neighbourhood of the Seat of the League.

New proposals have been received with regard to the necessary alterations to the Cointrin aerodrome to enable it to be utilised for the League’s requirements. The expenditure involved is smaller than in the case of the previous proposals. The experts, who have already studied the question, will be asked to examine whether the scheme is satisfactory from a technical point of view. If so, concrete proposals might be submitted to the Assembly at its session to be held in 1930. It is already certain, however, that, whatever solution is adopted, considerable expenditure will have to be incurred by the League. According to the present estimate, this sum is round about one million francs, which could doubtless be distributed over several years.


By Council resolutions dated September 2nd and December 7th, 1927, the resolutions of the Conference of Press Experts, which met at Geneva in August 1927, were divided into two categories. The first category comprised all the resolutions relating to rates, coding of Press messages, improvement of communications, transport of newspapers, and identity cards for journalists. The second category comprised the resolutions on the protection of Press news, most of the resolutions on professional facilities for journalists and the resolution on censorship in time of peace.

It was considered that the resolutions in the first category still required careful technical study, and accordingly the Council decided, on the proposal of the Conference itself, to refer them to the Organisation for Communications and Transit, asking the latter to continue the study of these resolutions with the help of the Press representatives interested. The resolutions in the second category were submitted direct to all Governments.

The result of the Advisory and Technical Committee’s work, which was completed at its last session, may be summarised as follows:

As regards the question of equality of treatment as between national and foreign journalists in respect of reductions of transport rates, the Committee, after consulting the International Railway Union, considered that, so far as the procedure for the identification of journalists, which, moreover, had already been examined, would afford in the matter of the identification of foreign journalists guarantees equivalent to those in the case of national journalists, the request submitted did not appear to involve any technical difficulties which would necessitate its examination by the Committee; and, further, that it did not seem to be within the Committee’s competence to give an opinion on the principle of the equality of treatment as between national and foreign journalists. It was considered that it was for the Council of the League to examine what action should be taken in connection with this resolution of the Conference of Press Experts.

The Council, at its session in June, considered that, in these circumstances, it was only necessary to note that, in the opinion of the Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit, the question raised did not involve any technical difficulties, and that this resolution of the Conference of Press Experts should be treated in the same manner as those which had been submitted by the Council direct to the Governments.

As regards identity cards for journalists, the Advisory and Technical Committee studied a model identity card to be issued by a qualified international or national organisation, the model of the card being attached to its resolution. It was of opinion that a card on this model would constitute a good means of professional identification for journalists travelling from one country to another, it being always understood that such a card would not take the place of a passport where the latter was required.

The telegraphic questions were submitted by the Advisory and Technical Committee to a special committee of experts. They relate to priority for Press telegrams and radiotelegrams; the institution — which the Committee would like to see introduced by the next Telegraphic Conference — of “urgent Press” telegrams and radiotelegrams; the rates applicable to long distance communications; the terminal charges levied in certain countries; telephone rates for Press communications, in regard to which the Committee had considered
that it could not propose a reduction in the form of a general recommendation, though it thought that the present text of the Telegraph Regulations allowed of certain reductions where financially possible; and, lastly, radiotelegraphic questions, in connection with which particular emphasis was laid on the Committee's resolution recommending that, as far as circumstances permitted, the rates for the transmission of Press messages by long-distance wireless should be as low as the cost of transmission allowed.

The question of the transport of newspapers and periodicals was also considered in detail by the Advisory and Technical Committee in co-operation with the International Railway Union and the International Air Traffic Association.

As regards the transport of newspapers by air, the Committee noted that the technical progress of air navigation made it possible to ensure the regular transport of newspapers by air, at any rate during the summer. It further stated that the proposals made on behalf of the various air-transport companies in regard to the rates applicable did not seem to give sufficient facilities for the transport of newspapers by air. It noted, however, the statements according to which much greater reductions had been granted on certain lines. It therefore invited the organisations interested in air transport and in the distribution of newspapers to keep it informed of all future developments, and it asked that the attention of Governments should be drawn to the importance of the problem and that they should be requested to assist in reaching a solution and to inform the Committee of any important improvements. Finally, the question of the transport of newspapers and periodicals by rail, and a large number of administrative and Customs questions connected with the general problem of transport of newspapers and periodicals which affect the postal, Customs and police administrations of the various countries, were found to be particularly important and complicated. Thanks to the help of the International Railway Union and of a Committee of Customs Experts, the preliminary studies are well advanced, and it has been proposed that the Council should summon during the autumn of 1929 a Conference of the Governments and administrations concerned; representatives of publishing houses and forwarding and distributing agencies interested in the transport of newspapers and periodicals would be invited to the Conference in an advisory capacity.

The Council, on June 12th, 1929, adopted the following resolution:

"The Council has noted the resolutions adopted by the Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit regarding the action to be taken on the resolutions of the Conference of Press Experts dealing with communications questions."

"It requests Governments to give the most favourable consideration to the recommendations or suggestions contained in the resolutions regarding identity cards for journalists, telegraphic questions and the transport of newspapers by air."

"It requests the Governments concerned to take steps to place on the agenda of the next Conference of the Telegraphic Union the telegraphic questions mentioned by the Advisory Committee as capable of settlement by that Conference."

"The Council decides to forward to Governments the resolution of the Conference of Press Experts concerning equality of treatment as between national and foreign journalists in regard to reductions of transport rates."

"It decides to convene for next autumn . . . a Conference of Governments and Administrations concerned, which representatives of publishing, forwarding, or distributing undertakings interested in the transport of newspapers and periodicals would be invited to attend in an advisory capacity."

J. JURISDICTION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION OF THE DANUBE.

The Chairman of the Advisory and Technical Committee and the Chairman of the Special Committee for the question of the jurisdiction of the European Commission of the Danube have begun the necessary enquiries and negotiations with a view to the settlement of the legal questions concerning the entry into force, in the form of a Convention, of the agreement concluded between the Powers represented on the European Commission of the Danube. Regulations to be annexed to the agreement are also being framed.


The Sub-Committee appointed by the League Transit Committee to examine the economic and technical aspects of the situation as regards questions of communications raised by the Council during its examination of the Polish-Lithuanian relations held a meeting in Berlin at the end of June 1929. The meeting was preceded by individual studies made by the members of the Committee in the regions concerned.
At the invitation of the Latvian and Polish Governments, the Sub-Committee paid an official visit to Riga, Libau, Vilna and Warsaw, where it conferred with officials of the technical Ministries and representatives of the business world.

The Sub-Committee will meet in August 1929 to draw up its report.

The Sub-Committee appointed to examine the existing international agreements referred to in the Council resolution and their bearing on the question of obstacles to the freedom of communications and transit will meet immediately after the 1929 Assembly.

III. HEALTH ORGANISATION.

A. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL DURING ITS FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION.

The Council, during its June session, approved the report of the Health Committee on the work of its fourteenth session and congratulated the Health Committee on its work.


The Council decided that the resolution adopted by the Health Committee during its fourteenth session should be referred to the Fourth Committee of the Assembly.

(A note of this decision will be found in the general report to the Assembly, document A.6.1929, page 100.)

2. Sleeping-Sickness.

The Council approved the resolution adopted by the Health Committee during its fourteenth session (see document A.6.1929, page 103). The Rapporteur expressed his satisfaction that the assistance of the Health Organisation had been made available for the Administrations of African possessions in their work of safeguarding human life in Africa.

3. Opium.

The Council approved the resolutions of the Health Committee in regard to the application of Article 10 of the International Opium Convention of 1925 to benzoylmorphine and the morphine esters (document A.6.1929, page 105). The Rapporteur expressed the hope that Governments which had not already done so would hasten to take the necessary measures to place all esters of morphine under the system of control provided by the Convention.

4. Infant Mortality.

The Council noted that the enquiry into the causes of infant mortality had been completed in the European countries where it had been undertaken, and had yielded results of particular importance to the various health administrations. Attention was drawn to the fact that the Health Committee had endorsed the recommendation of its experts that the health administrations of other countries should be invited to undertake similar studies, and was prepared to place its services at the disposal of these administrations and afford them the necessary assistance and advice. Such studies will probably be started in Roumania and Japan.

The Spanish representative on the Council, acting as Rapporteur, informed the Council that similar studies would be started in his own country and that he relied upon the co-operation of the Health Organisation for their development. He further reminded the Council that a similar enquiry had been undertaken in the countries of Latin America and that it was practically completed in the Argentine, in Brazil, Chile and Uruguay. He further referred to the possibility that the health services of other Latin-American countries might join in these investigations as a result of the tour of enquiry through all the countries of South America, which was being made by Dr. Etienne Burnet, Secretary of the Leproxy Commission of the Health Organisation.


The Council approved the resolution of the Health Committee adopted at its fourteenth session recommending that an account should be included in the publications of the Health Organisation of the survey method employed in American cities to stimulate public health administrations and of the extensive studies made on the cost of medical care. The Medical Director is authorised by this resolution to prepare a report on the methods employed in other countries for the appraisal of public health work, and arrangements will be made for co-operation with the schools of hygiene and the health administrations concerned, with a view to the study of the work of the peripheral health services in European countries.