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Sujet

Subject

Weekly Conference in S.G.'s room.

Minutes of 3rd Meeting Aug. 27.

Subjects discussed:— Position in

U.S.A. — Meetings of Council —

Switzerland — Fiume — Supreme

Economic Council — Labour Conference

Slesvig & Silesia — Jewish

Questions in Poland.

The present position in the U.S.A.
makes it inadvisable for the moment
to make further appointments to the Staff.

Document précédent, No. 855.

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(Suite donnée.)

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3rd

A MEETING IN THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S ROOM

ON AUGUST 27, 1919, AT 3.30 P.M.

PRESENT:--

SECRETARY GENERAL
MR. FOSDICK
DR. VAN HAMEL
MR. COLBEN
M. COMERT
MR. SALTER
M. VARIEZ
MAJOR BUKTON.

POSITION IN THE UNITED STATES.

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that the position of the League in America had become more critical since the last Meeting, but it must be remembered that the President had not yet started his campaign. He considered that it was more important than ever for the Secretariat of the League to avoid doing anything which could provide ammunition for its opponents in America. For this reason it would be best for the present not to make any further appointments to the staff.

MR. FOSDICK, who agreed with the Secretary General, said that he thought even if America did not come in this year she could not possibly remain out long. He considered that the only external appeal which might influence Americans at the present moment would be one coming from Belgium.

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that the question whether Meetings of the Council could be held as soon as three Powers other than Germany had ratified was still being discussed in Paris. He hoped for a decision in the near future.

SWITZERLAND

The news from Switzerland was not very good. The Swiss Socialists had declared against Switzerland entering the League. The chiefs of the Peasant Party were favourable to Switzerland's entry, but the mass of the peasants themselves appeared to be still doubt-

ful, if not hostile. In order to leave time to convince the peasants the Referendum must not be held until late winter. On the other hand, the Swiss Minister who had called at Sunderland House, was more optimistic and thought that the peasants were not unfavourable to Switzerland's entry, and that there was a split in the Socialist Party.

TRIESTE

Although an extremely difficult question, it was probably all to the good that Trieste had been put under the protection of the League.

SUPREME ECONOMIC COUNCIL

MR. SALTER said that it had been decided that the Supreme Economic Council could not meet before the ratification of the Treaty. This was extremely serious, because there was no international body now dealing with international economic questions. He asked Mr. Fosdick to try to arrange a meeting between Mr. Salter and Mr. Hoover, which Mr. Fosdick agreed to do. He considered that the main work of the Economic Section, in the near future, should be to prepare a descriptive paper on the economic state of the world and of economic questions which must be solved. This paper, if well prepared, could form the basis of an international economic discussion at the first Meeting of the Assembly. It should contain alternative proposals and solutions for the various problems. The Meeting agreed that the question was most important from the League point of view and welcomed Mr. Salter's suggestions. He believed that the International Economic position was one of the first questions which the public expected the League to tackle. The SECRETARY GENERAL said that any subject on the Agenda of the Assembly would have more weight if it were first discussed by the Council and referred by them to the Assembly.

LABOUR CONFERENCE

A discussion followed on the Labour Conference. Mr. FOSDICK firmly believed that it would be held at Washington. M. COMBET stated that the Scandinavian, Swiss and probably the French delegates

delegates would not attend unless the German delegates attended.

SILBIA AND SCHLESIG

MR. GOLDBIN said that he was glad to see that the Paris Conference are taking steps to meet the points which he mentioned at last week's Meeting.

JEWISH QUESTIONS IN POLAND

It was agreed that the Foreign Office should be asked to furnish the Secretariat with copies of reports from the British Commissioner who had been appointed to enquire into the Jewish questions in Poland.

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