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- 5 SEP 1919

MEETING HELD IN THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S ROOM

ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd, at

3.30 p.m.

Present:

Secretary General
Mr. Fosdick
Dr. Nitobe
Mr. Colban
Dr. Van Hamel
Mr. Mair
Mr. Salter
M. Varlen
Captain Walters

In preliminary conversation, it was agreed that, in cases where the League of Nation is called on by a Treaty to act as guarantor, the matter must be submitted to the Council, which will have the right to make its own conditions in accepting the charge.

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that there had been no important developments since the last meeting. He heard that the position as to ratification by the American Senate appeared rather better. The President had been asked to state definitely whether he would call a meeting of the Council directly the Treaty came into force, he had not yet replied, but it was hoped that he would do so in two or three days.

Mr MAIR said that his Section would have to have ready biographies, photographs, etc., of members of the first meeting of the Council for the Press. Those for abroad would have to be sent out in advance, as the personalities might be uncertain, it would be necessary to prepare the above matter for all probable representatives. If a verbatim report of the Assembly were needed, it would be necessary to take over reporters from Europe, as they could not be got in the United States; we might however be able to use the Labour Conference Staff.

As to the Council, the Secretary General said that very likely it would not be made public, and that probably there

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would be no verbatim report, but a representative of the Public Information Department would have to be there to make a summary of the proceedings.

Mr. MAIR said that he had promised to supply Colonel Wade with a set of points for speakers on behalf of the League of Nations Union. He agreed to send someone to be present at the Women's Meeting to be held on September 4th.

Mr. BALTER said that his department was proceeding on the lines described last week, he would probably need some temporary help in this work. He hoped to have an important talk on Friday with Mr. Hoover, who was due to reach England on Thursday.

M. VARLEE - nothing of interest to report. The rumour that the Labour Conference would be postponed had since been denied.

Mr. GOLBAN - nothing of interest to report. Every day's delay of the coming into force of the Treaty made things worse in Eastern Europe, and the odium for this fell in part on the League, unjustly. It was suggested that Mr. Mair should approach the Polish Bureau in the hope of counteracting this.

Dr. HITOE said he had spent all last week at Brussels. He found the Union des Associations Internationales, at the head of which were M. Lafontaine and M. Otlet, now engaged mainly on the cataloguing of books, the other work had been given up during the War, and the Staff was much reduced, as were also the available funds.

M. HYSMANS had sent M. Haackenbeeck to see the park and palace which would be given to the League, if Brussels became its seat. It was a very large park, with fine buildings.

In Holland, he had visited the International Intermediary Institute, which was publishing bulletins largely devoted to international law. The Staff of this Institute is Dutch, but the nature of its work is international. Both Institutes desire to co-operate with the League, but not to be absorbed by it, and he made no mention of such absorption. They desire to have, also, recognised...

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recognised access to the information possessed by the League.

The publication, "La Vie Internationale" was now given up owing to an insufficiency of staff and money. This was a great loss. We might possibly ask the Council to advance funds for this.

Dr VAN HAMEL mentioned the new international organisation of Scientific Academies founded recently in Brussels. It was understood that neutral Academies would be invited to join, but that German ones would be excluded at present. This, however, was purely unofficial and had not arisen out of the Treaties, as had been reported.

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