

Section.

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Sujet Subject

Weekly Conference in S.G.'s Room.  
Minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>

Subjects discussed:-

Council Meeting in Paris to  
deal with appointment of  
Saar Delimitation Commission.  
Supreme Economic Council etc.

(Suite donnée.)

Index A.

Index B.

Distribution

Summary

Print

Réponses, &amp;c. (Out Letter Book) :-

This file also contains the minutes of the meetings of Feb. 1919. Index C. 11569 | A classer.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

MINUTES of a MEETING held in the Secretary General's Room  
on Wednesday, 5th November, 1919. at 3.30 p.m.

Present:-

The Secretary General  
Dr. Nitobe  
Sir Herbert Ames  
Monsieur Comert  
Dr. van Hamel  
Mr. Salter  
Captain Gilchrist  
Captain Walters.

1919

The Secretary General gave a brief account of the results of his visit to Paris. A proposal had been submitted to the Supreme Council by the Drafting Committee of the Peace Conference, and according to the records had been generally accepted, to the effect that a Council meeting should be held in Paris immediately the Treaty came into force, in order to make the appointments of the Saar Basin Delimitation and Governing Commissions and of the High Commissioner for Danzig. This was found not to represent the real sentiment of the French, American and British Governments, and Mr. Polk had now agreed with the French Government to ask the President to call a meeting in Paris, to deal with the appointment of the Saar Delimitation Commission only. This meeting would not receive any considerable publicity. The French Government was anxious to wait until the American Senate had ratified the Treaty before appointing the Saar Governing Commission, as they wished to have an American member of that Commission. Sir Eyre Crowe had sent a telegram, on the S.G.'s suggestion, to the British Government, asking for their approval of this arrangement. He was not aware that an answer had yet been sent.

As regards the probable date of the coming into force of the Treaty, at the time when he left London November 11th was regarded as a probable date. On arrival in Paris he found this would be impossible. The arrangements for holding plebiscites and for ensuring the fulfilment of the armistice conditions (for which a protocol was to be drawn up) involved further delay, and the date would probably be about the end of the month.

He/

X Later: The British Government has approved and the Supreme Council has definitely resolved on this recommendation.



He had received information from Paris containing some points of interest:

Hungary. The Treaty was ready for presentation to the Hungarian Government as soon as a Government existed with which negotiations were possible, and efforts were being made to assist the establishment of such Government.

Bulgaria. It was anticipated that the Treaty would be signed next week.

Roumania. The opposition of Monsieur Bratiano's party to the Minorities Treaty remains at present unabated.

Jugo-Slavia. The Serbian Government's attitude to the Minorities Treaty was not uncompromising, but a final solution was delayed by the failure to settle the Adriatic question between Jugo-Slavia and Italy.

Mr. Salter said that the memoranda which his section had prepared on

- (1) The Economic Weapon;
- (2) The eight Chief Industrial Countries.

were both ready for printing as Council documents.

One consequence of the postponement of the meeting of the Assembly was that it had become important for the Secretariat to establish relations of some kind with the Supreme Economic Council. There was to be a meeting of the permanent Committee of that Council on November 6th, which he proposed to attend. The International Economic Council does not exist as yet, owing to the fact that the United States Government had not been able to give its agreement to the scheme. He intended going to Rome at the end of this month to visit the Institute of Agriculture, and hope that an opportunity might arise at the same time to attend a meeting of the Supreme Economic Council, which was expected to be held there at that time. His hope was, that the Supreme Economic Council would instruct their permanent Committee to collaborate with the International Secretariat. It was agreed that this plan would be unobjectionable, though it would not be desirable for the International Secretariat to take the initiative in promoting this collaboration.



He had also attended the meetings in London of the Fight the Famine Council. The meetings had not been a great success, as except for Professor Brentano, and some notable British economists, no economists of eminence had attended. Invited to take part in the discussions, he had felt compelled to decline. One special matter of interest emerged from the meeting - namely, that many of the speakers pressed for the League of Nations to take an active part in dealing with European Economic problems. Sir George Paish especially had an important paper on the League and the financial necessities of various States. We might expect that an authoritative proposal signed by nationals of various European states would shortly be presented to the Council on this point. The Economic and Financial Section would be in a position to produce a statement summing up all the authoritative pronouncements and investigations which had been made on this matter, provided that they could get leave to use the contents of an important report prepared in Paris which was now regarded as confidential.

Sir Herbert Ames enquired whether there would probably be set up an International Financial Commission.

Mr. Salter said there would be an Economic Council and an International Currency Commission, but probably not an International Financial Commission, as this subject would be within the sphere of the International Economic Council.

Sir Herbert Ames said that he was expecting to receive today the first proof of the League Budget. It was agreed that copies should be circulated to the Sections for their suggestions. He remarked that it was found very difficult to get exact equivalents in French and English for every necessary term - e.g., for such a word as "section".

On the question of the financial relations between the League  
and/



and International Bureaux, a Conference was proposed to be held when Monsieur Monnet returned. It was later decided to fix the time of this meeting for Tuesday, November 11th, at 4 o'clock.

He asked whether we proposed to introduce a pension or annuity system for members of the Secretariat. The question became acute in the cases of Civil Servants who, when they joined the Secretariat were already in possession of certain pension rights. The Secretary General said that he was not anxious to raise this question just now. The Organisation Committee had agreed to recommend to their Governments that service in the International Secretariat should not affect the pension rights of Civil Servants, and ~~therefore~~ that the period of service should count towards pension; but at that time they were contemplating a period of service of five years. In the case of longer periods, they might not be so ready to agree to this arrangement. Soon, however, it would be necessary to produce a scheme.

Captain Gilchrist mentioned the subject of the conveyance to Washington of the German delegates to the Labour Conference. Those neutral and Allied delegates who had not secured a passage before Monday last had now travelled on a U.S. troop-ship, but for the 14 German delegates no travelling accommodation had yet been found. The newspaper report that some of these delegates were already in America was a mistake.

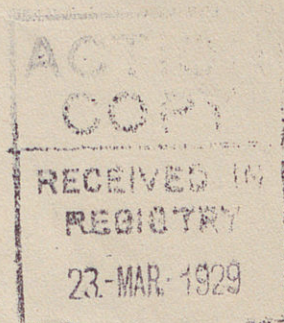
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Minutes of a Meeting held in the Secretary General's  
Room, on Wednesday, October 22nd, 1919 at 3.30.p.m.

Present:-

The Secretary General  
Monsieur Monnet  
Dr. Nitobe  
Sir Herbert Ames  
Mr. Colban  
Monsieur Comert  
Mr. Salter  
Dr. van Hamel  
Captain Gilchrist  
Captain Walters.



The Secretary General said that he had recently received a report from the British Delegation in Paris, to the effect that the Treaty was likely to come into force next week. In view of this, he had had meant to go to Paris on Friday. Monsieur Monnet, however, had now given him a different account of the matter, and the proposed visit could, he thought be safely postponed, at any rate until next week.

Labour Conference. Mr. Wilson, the American Secretary for Labour, had issued a statement in the press, implying the possibility that, if the United States had not ratified and therefore could not attend the Conference and if, as was possible, other States invited to send delegates were in the same position, the Conference would think it necessary to adjourn until a later date. In reply to a telegram from us, Mr. Bulter had said that this statement had been based exclusively on the legal possibilities of the situation, that the Conference would meet in any case, and would decide its own future. This, he thought, was satisfactory, as they were certain to go ahead with their discussions.

As regards adhesions of "invited" States, there was nothing new to report. All were waiting to see what the United States would do.

Monsieur Monnet said that during his stay in Paris, the question of the coming into force of the Treaty had gone through various stages./



stages. When the Italian ratification became known, the first view taken was that it would be best to bring the Treaty into force at once, and base the action upon the ratifications by France, Great Britain and Italy. Then, however, it was realised that the coming into force of the Treaty entailed two sets of problems:-

1. the carrying out of the actual measures to be taken immediately on the coming into force of the Treaty - e.g., the holding of plebiscites and the appointment and despatch of various Commissions;
2. the problem connected with the position of Germany on the coming into force of the Treaty.

As to 1, when the work of Monsieur Tardieu's Committee on the Execution of the Treaty was reviewed, it was found that for some Commissions arrangements were ready and appointments made; for others not. For the plebiscites the presence of Allied troops was necessary and in no case were they effectively on the ground. In some cases, the Supreme Council had not yet agreed as to their position. All these points must be seen to in order to bring the Treaty effectively into force.

As to 2, it was found that Germany had in some respects not carried out the conditions of the Armistice, especially with regard to the evacuation of the Baltic Provinces. Should the treaty come into force immediately, the armistice would lapse, and to enforce its terms it would be necessary to have recourse to the machinery of the League of Nations, which would evidently in the circumstances be a long and difficult affair,

Finally, there was the situation in the United States. Without the participation of the United States it was very difficult to bring the Treaty and the League into operation, and it seemed possible that, by the time the tasks outlined under headings 1 and 2 had been performed, the United States might have given its decision.

The Supreme Council is now, therefore, pressing the Allied Governments to nominate members of Commissions and to make the preparations for the necessary military occupation; pressing Germany to carry out the terms of the armistice; and hoping that the United States may by then have ratified the Treaty, or be on the point of doing so.

This/



MINUTES.

15 October 1919

of a Meeting held in the Secretary General's Room, at  
3.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 15th October

1919.

---cOc---

Present:-

The Secretary General;  
Dr. Nitobe;  
Sir Herbert Ames;  
Mr. Mair;  
Mr. Salter;  
Dr. van Hamel;  
Captain Gilchrist;  
Captain Walters.

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The Secretary General said that he had heard from Monsieur Monnet that the French Government would consider the Italian ratification as valid. It was practically certain that the deposit of ratifications would take place at the end of this week, and that the Treaty would come into force at the beginning of next. At the time when this message was written, Monsieur Monnet had been unaware of certain considerations which the S.G. had since communicated to him, and which he now proceeded to mention, asking that they should be treated as strictly confidential.

He had received a report from Monsieur Mantoux, who had recently paid a visit to Geneva in his capacity as a Professor of London University. He reported:-

1. that there was serious lack of accommodation at Geneva, and that prices were very high;
2. that, according to the best information he could get (in particular, Monsieur William Martin and Professor Rappard) Switzerland would probably not hold her referendum before the middle of February.

Other authorities, however, reported that the referendum would take place this year. Amongst these was Monsieur Gignoux, the Burgomaster of Geneva, who had stated that accommodation would be available at reasonable rates. The S.G. hoped that when the United States had decided Switzerland would find that she must decide quickly, and it was even possible that the Council might bring pressure upon her to do so.

Mr. Mair/



Mr. Mair said that Monsieur Martin when in London had told him that accommodation could be obtained at Geneva at about London rates.

There was in London a gathering of Allied journalists, who were the guests of the British Government. They represented practically all the Allied countries, and he suggested that the S.G. might invite them to Sunderland House and speak to them shortly.

The Secretary General considered - and in this Captain Gilchrist concurred - that to do so would have an unfortunate effect in America.

Dr. van Hamel asked whether the U.S. attitude would change in this respect after other powers had ratified.

The Secretary General said that this must alter the situation, though even then there should be not too much publicity, if a merely formal Council meeting, dealing only with the Saar Basin Frontier Commission followed, this would be in a sense the birth of the League; but we should wait till its baptism to keep it with ceremony. In the same way, there could be no publicity with regard to the Secretariat until it had been approved by the Council.

Sir Herbert Ames said that in his draft schedule for assessment he had reckoned Poland as a State of the third class; but on enquiring from the Universal Postal Union he found that they had classified Poland as a State of the first class. He asked whether the Universal Postal Union's decision made before the Treaty came into force must be considered to create a fait accompli for the League.

Dr. van Hamel promised to give a considered opinion on this.

The question was raised in what unit of value the Secretariat was reckoning for purposes of assessment.

Sir Herbert Ames said that while in London he was reckoning in pounds sterling, and when in Switzerland it would possibly be advisable to work in terms of Swiss francs.

Mr. Salter said that a possible alternative would be to use a gold standard which was the same for all nations, as the Reparation Commission is doing.

attention/



Attention was drawn to the possibility that the Swiss exchange might be manipulated for or against the League. It was decided that we must consult financial experts on this question.

Dr. Inaze Nitebe reported that he had had a conversation with Professor Schuster with reference to the newly founded International Research Association. The Association did not seem anxious to come under the direction of the League for two reasons:-

1. the difficulty involved in having personal relations with German men of science;
2. they thought it would be easier to get money from individual Governments than from the League.

He had also had a conversation with Admiral Sir J. Parry with reference to the International Hydrographic Association. This body was anxious to come under the League and to have its Headquarters at Geneva. This would be useful in their international correspondence, and they would also thus be able to have the use of interpreters and translators, which they would not otherwise get.

Dr. van Hamel pointed out that as an official body they would have to come under the League. The International Research Association was not in the same position, as it would not be established by international convention, and this was the point which he thought in general must govern the question.

A discussion followed on the problem involved, as regards the finances of various international institutions which have an individual scale of contribution - e.g., the International Institute of Agriculture and the International Air Office. Could they continue to have their special scale, or should their funds be drawn from the general fund of the League, to which all countries contributed on a fixed basis?

The Secretary General pointed out that Article 24 provided that "the Council may include as part of the expenses of the Secretariat the expenses of any Bureau or Commission which is placed under the direction of the League". The fact that a Bureau came under the Direction of the League did not therefore necessarily imply that its expenses must be defrayed from League funds.

Sir Herbert Ames said that there would be serious complications if we had to ask countries for special sums as well as for their/



their contribution on the fixed scale.

The conclusion was reached that, if the Secretariat is made responsible for the finances of any Bureau, they must be met out of its central fund collected on its regular schedule. If not, the Bureau in question could keep its special scale, and must then be responsible for collecting its own contributions. Sir Herbert Ames added that, if we were responsible for the finances of various subsidiary bodies, we should have to employ a travelling auditor.

Dr. Inane Nitobe asked whether there was any general principle by which he could give advice when asked how the payment of expenses should be arranged in newly founded international bodies.

The Secretary General said that it was impossible to lay down any governing principle until Sir Herbert Ames had completed his new schedule, which would be based on the financial resources, etc., of the various Powers.

Sir Herbert Ames said that he and Mr. Salter were planning a questionnaire for the Governments on some points which would affect this schedule, and enquired whether it could be dispatched to all States who would be contributors.

The Secretary General said that the intention of the questionnaire would have to be camouflaged. He thought that at the third or fourth meeting of the Council the Secretariat could say that there was reason to think that the established scale was unfair, and ask for power to obtain from Governments the information necessary to prepare a reformed scheme.

Sir Herbert Ames enquired also as to the meaning of the phrase "diplomatic privileges and immunities".

Dr. van Hamel said that the Legal Section was writing a memorandum on the whole question.

In reply to a question, he said that the removal of office furniture from London to Geneva or the conveyance of an automobile from America to Geneva, could take place duty free.



could no other error be made

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