

3159. Appeal of the Chinese Government: Report of the Commission of Enquiry set up in virtue of the Resolution adopted by the Council on December 10th, 1931.

(See *Official Journal*, December 1932 (Part I).)

SIXTH MEETING (PUBLIC).

Held on Monday, November 21st, 1932, at 4 p.m.

President MR. DE VALERA.

Present: All the representatives of the Members of the Council, and the Secretary-General.

3160. Appeal of the Chinese Government: Report of the Commission of Enquiry set up in virtue of the Resolution adopted by the Council on December 10th, 1931 (continuation).

(See *Official Journal*, December 1932 (Part I).)

SEVENTH MEETING (PUBLIC).

Held on Wednesday November 23rd, 1932, at 3.30 p.m.

President. MR. DE VALERA.

Present: All the representatives of the Members of the Council, and the Secretary-General. Czechoslovakia was represented by M. OSUSKÝ and Poland by Count RACZYŃSKI.

3161. Appeal of the Chinese Government: Report of the Commission of Enquiry set up in virtue of the Resolution adopted by the Council on December 10th, 1931 (continuation).

(See *Official Journal*, December 1932 (Part I).)

3162. Free City of Danzig Introduction of the Zloty as a Means of Payment on the Railways in the Territory of the Free City · Question of " Direct Action "

M. Ziehm, President of the Senate of the Free City of Danzig, and M. Rosting, Acting High Commissioner of the League of Nations at Danzig, came to the Council table.

Sir John SIMON observed that the representative of the United Kingdom was appointed to act as Rapporteur in this class of matter. The question was obviously one of importance, and he was sure the Council would agree that the Acting High Commissioner, M. Rosting, had acted with perfect propriety in referring the matter to the Council (Annex 1411). The question was one which required careful study and he would be grateful if he might have an opportunity to study it, and

have associated with him two of his colleagues on the Council, in order that they might make a report. They would of course do their utmost to present to the Council, after hearing the parties, a settlement which was agreed by all.

He accordingly suggested that the Spanish and Norwegian representatives should be invited to join the United Kingdom representative in this task. He understood that these gentlemen would be willing to serve and he felt sure that their assistance would be appreciated by the rest of the Council as it would be by himself.

The proposal was adopted.

M. Ziehm and M. Rosting withdrew

3163. Request for Assistance submitted by the Liberian Government: Report by the Council Committee (continuation).

Mr. Grimes, representative of Liberia, came to the Council table.

Count RACZYNSKI presented the following report.¹

" 1. At the Council meeting held on October 13th,² I had the honour to submit to my colleagues the amended plan of assistance (Annex 1407) which had been unanimously accepted by the Council Committee. I expressed the hope that the proposed negotiations between the Liberian Government on the one hand and the American groups interested on the other should not be further postponed, in order that the financial questions that arose might be speedily settled and that the plan might be put into effect in the near future.

" 2. At the same time, I explained that the representative of the United States on the Council Committee had stated that his Government approved the Committee's plan, and had communicated it to the Finance Corporation of America, informing the latter of the Committee's desire that the negotiations between the Finance Corporation and the Liberian Government should begin as soon as possible.

" 3. It was stated at that time that the Finance Corporation of America would send representatives to Geneva in November, and that the negotiations would shortly begin, with the cooperation of the Financial Organisation and of Mr. Lighthart. With this object in view the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury of Liberia have remained in Europe until the present moment, awaiting the arrival of the said representatives, in order to begin the negotiations as soon as possible.

" 4. We now learn (Annex 1407a), however, that the Finance Corporation of America feels that, before opening negotiations, it must obtain direct and complete information on the spot with regard to the present position in Liberia. The Finance Corporation considers that, until it has been able to secure further particulars, it cannot enter into satisfactory discussion of the financial aspects of a plan of assistance. It has therefore sent its Vice-President, Mr. Lyle, to Liberia, and Mr. Lyle will arrive at Monrovia on December 11th.

" 5. It follows that the negotiations suggested by the Council Committee cannot take place until next year. The Liberian delegation finds it impossible, under the circumstances, to remain in Europe.

6. The resulting delay in the application of the plan is, of course, much to be regretted, but it is hoped that the establishment of direct contact between the Liberian Government and the Finance Corporation of America by Mr. Lyle's visit to Liberia will facilitate agreement later. I earnestly trust, in view of the former assurances it has given, that the Finance Corporation of America will not refuse to collaborate in putting the Committee's plan into final form and in making possible its early application. The President of the Council Committee is endeavouring to obtain through the proper channels further information as to the intentions of the Corporation.

7. The Liberian representative has again expressed his Government's desire that the principal financial negotiations should take place at Geneva as soon as possible (in any case, not later than next spring) with the assistance of the Financial Organisation and of Mr. Lighthart. I felt justified in reminding him that his Government's wishes that these negotiations should take place at Geneva have been unanimously agreed to by the Committee.

8. When, after the next meeting of the Council Committee, the question is again before the Council, I hope to be able to supply it with more detailed information."

Mr. GRIMES, representative of Liberia, said that the Liberian delegation had read the report of the Polish representative and desired to emphasise that the delay in the negotiations was not in the least due to any fault of the Liberian Government or its representatives. On September 27th, the plan with which the League considered that it could render assistance to the Government of Liberia was adopted by the Committee of the Council, and, although it appeared to do violence to the *amour-propre* of the Republic in some of its aspects, it was nevertheless accepted by the Liberian Government, in common with all the other Governments represented on the Committee, including that of the United States of America. The United States representative then said in

¹ Document C.782.1932.VII.

² See page 1936.