

It would be quite unnatural to hand over the Vistula within the Free City to foreign administration. Five ferries cross the river within this district and it would be monstrous to permit a foreign administration to obstruct this traffic whenever it chose.

The administration of the estuary of the Vistula has always been separate, as an estuary requires special measures and it cannot be compared with other sections of the river merely on the basis of their respective lengths. The Vistula River Works Administration ("Strombauverwaltung") which has a representative on the Harbour Board, has for many years administered and regulated the former Prussian part of the Vistula with great success. This administration has had long experience and is quite willing to assist and work with the Polish services. As to the technical points mentioned in the Polish appeal, it should perhaps be pointed out that experience has shown the necessity for starting the work of ice-breaking at the mouth of the river. This could only be directed from Danzig, where the equipment is available and whence reports on ice movements and inundations would naturally be made.

It is impossible to separate from the Free City the running stream of the Vistula, which is its main artery and feeds the harbour. It flows through the whole of the territory and is its most important waterway. It must therefore be placed under the administration of the Harbour Board.

I have no doubt that both parties want a practical arrangement of the Vistula administration which will serve the interests and the needs of the two countries, and I wonder if many of the actual difficulties of the situation which I have just outlined would not perhaps work themselves out during the course of direct negotiations between the parties. Since this appeal was made, several months have passed and a large number of questions between Poland and the Free City have been settled through the signature of the Agreement of October 24th, 1921. I feel, therefore, that this question of the Vistula could perhaps be brought nearer a solution by further conversations between the representatives of Poland and Danzig who have come to Geneva on the occasion of this session of the Council. I would, if my colleagues agree, ask the representatives of Danzig and Poland to talk the matter over and inform the Secretary-General before the end of the session as to any progress that may have been made, I therefore propose the following resolution for adoption

#### RESOLUTION.

"The Representatives of the Polish and Danzig Governments are requested to talk over the question of the control and administration of the Vistula river, and to inform the Secretary-General, before the end of the session, whether a solution of this question can be expected by direct negotiation."

#### ANNEX 296 a.

#### DRAFT AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE VISTULA PROPOSED BY THE POLISH DELEGATION ON JANUARY 13th, 1922.

The Free City of Danzig shall appoint, to act on the Vistula Administration, a delegate and a deputy delegate having the following powers

A. (1) The delegate shall have the right to consult all documents relating to work on the territory of the Free City and to state his views with regard to proposed decisions.

(2) The delegate shall be authorised to make proposals regarding all matters affecting the interests of the inhabitants of the Free City of Danzig.

(3) The delegate shall have the right to oppose all decisions which, in his opinion, are prejudicial to the interests or the rights of the Free City. In such cases the final decision shall lie with the High Commissioner of the League of Nations.

B. A delegate of the Harbour Board shall be attached to the Riparian Inspection Board at Tczew (Dirschau) or to the Riparian Administration Board at Torun (Thorn) as liaison officer. Any requests submitted by the Harbour Board through this delegate shall be executed by the Polish riparian authorities.

C. Independently of the present Agreement, and in conformity with paragraph 3 of Article 20 of the Convention of November 9th, 1921, the Harbour Board shall come to an understanding with the Polish Government with a view to harmonising, as far as possible, the regime applied to the tidal basin of the Vistula, which is under its administration, and that in force upon the river Vistula ("Stromweichsel").