

FREE CITY OF DANZIG

GENERAL REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1922 — FEBRUARY 1923.

The Secretary-General has the honour to forward for the information of the Council and of the Members of the League a report on Danzig questions covering the period from the last general report ¹ up to February 3rd, 1923, when General Haking's term of office as High Commissioner came to an end.

I. — QUESTIONS CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL AT ITS TWENTY-THIRD SESSION.

Six questions concerning Danzig were considered by the Council at its 23rd session (Paris, January 29th to February 3rd, 1923). M. Adatci, representative of Japan, acted as Rapporteur. His reports will be found in the Minutes of the 23rd session of the Council (*Official Journal*, March 1923).

(1) *Resignation of General Haking as High Commissioner*

General Haking, High Commissioner in Danzig during the past two years, has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in Egypt. The Council expressed its warm thanks for the services he has rendered and congratulated him on the very able and impartial manner in which he had fulfilled his duties in Danzig. The Council extended his term of office from January 19th, 1923, to February 3rd, 1923, the date of the end of the Council session.

(2) *Appointment of Mr MacDonnell as High Commissioner* ²

Upon the recommendation of the British Government, the Council appointed Mr. M. S. MacDonnell, Governor of the Western Province of Egypt since 1919, as High Commissioner, to succeed General Haking. The report and resolution adopted by the Council on this subject contain specific provisions with regard to his term of office, salary, office arrangements, financial accountability, etc., as well as for the maintenance of the High Commissioner's office pending Mr MacDonnell's arrival in Danzig. Mr A. Ryan, formerly secretary to General Haking, has been requested by the Secretary-General to take charge of the High Commissioner's office until Mr. MacDonnell's arrival.

(3) *Financial Situation of the Free City.*

The Council took note of the moratorium of 12 months granted to the Free City by the Reparation Commission ³ and requested the Secretary-General to thank the Commission for its action. The Financial Committee of the League was, on January 30th, 1923, asked to continue to follow the developments in the financial situation of the Free City, and on February 3rd, 1923, it made a report to the Council. In order to provide the Free City with the necessary working capital, the Financial Committee recommended that the Reparation Commission and the Conference of Ambassadors should be approached with a view to assuring the Free City priority for credit operations not to exceed 500,000 gold marks. The Council approved this recommendation, asked the Danzig Government for its observations and requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Financial Committee, to undertake the necessary negotiations.

The Conference of Ambassadors was asked to forward to the Council as soon as possible its opinion on certain points which had previously been referred to it, *i. e.*, the desirability of completing quickly the work of the Commission for the allocation of former German State property in Danzig ⁴ and the granting of some relief in Danzig's liabilities for the civil administration of the Territory in 1920 and for the costs of the military occupation.

The Council also considered reports received from the High Commissioner and the Danzig and Polish Governments ⁵ concerning the recommendations of the Financial Committee, adopted by the Council on September 9, 1922 ⁴, and concerning a proposal made by the Polish Government at the same meeting dealing with the acquisition by Poland of a part of the former German State property which had been allocated to the Free City ⁴

¹ Document C. 666. M. 395. 1922. I. *Official Journal*, October 1922, page 1100.

² See Documents C. 756. M. 457. 1922. I., C. 761. 1922. I., and C. 47. 1923. I.

³ See Document C. 20. M. 9. 1923. I.

⁴ *Official Journal*, November 1922 (Part II), pages 1179, 1180 and 1241.

⁵ Document C. 749. 1922. I. and Erratum Document C. 11. 1923. I. Document C. 39. 1923. I. and Document C. 150. 1923. I.

(4) *The Danzig Police.*

At the end of the 21st session of the Council, the French Government drew attention to the Danzig Police and their attitude in connection with certain incidents which had taken place between French sailors and Danzig nationals and officials, during the recent visit of the French Baltic Naval Division ¹. At the same session the French representative had also called attention to the question of the expenses of the Danzig Police.

The Council on January 30th, 1923, considered the various documents which had been presented to it on the subject, including reports from the Danzig Government and from the High Commissioner ², which both asserted that the Police generally carried out their duties in a satisfactory manner. The High Commissioner, who had submitted full details of the strength and expenditure on the Police force, concluded that the enquiry set on foot by the French Government would have a very good effect, particularly in improving the behaviour of the Danzig Police, but that in his opinion the number of police was not more than was absolutely required.

The Council took note of these reports.

(5) *Competence of the Polish Diplomatic Representative in Danzig (including the procedure in connection with the Welcoming of Foreign Fleets officially in Danzig).*

The Polish Government had appealed against the decision ³ given by the High Commissioner on August 23rd, 1922, on this question. With the concurrence of the High Commissioner, the decision was replaced by an agreement reached at Paris on January 29th, 1923, between the representatives of the Polish and Danzig Governments.

This agreement provided that the competence of the Polish representative was limited as described by Article 1 of the Treaty of November 9th, 1920, that his relations with the other Polish organisations in Danzig were purely domestic but that he was quite free to establish such relations. As regards the welcoming of foreign warships, it was agreed that the first official visit of the officer in command would be paid to the Senate of the Free City, that the Polish diplomatic representative should also have the right to exchange courtesies with him, that Poland would conduct the diplomatic correspondence in connection with such visits and see that this agreement was carried out.

The Council noted this agreement.

(6) *Representation of the Free City at International Conferences.*

Poland and Danzig both appealed against the High Commissioner's decision ⁴ of August 24th, 1922, concerning this question.

As the result of negotiations between the two parties under the High Commissioner, an agreement interpreting and supplementing the decision and the High Commissioner's explanatory note of October 7th, 1922, was reached at Paris on January 27th, 1923. This was accepted by the High Commissioner and the two parties in consequence withdrew their appeals against his decision. The agreement emphasised the application of the general Treaty provision that the conduct of the foreign relations of the Free City is to be undertaken by the Polish Government and that the principles laid down in the High Commissioner's decision of December 17th, 1921, with regard to the interpretation of this provision should apply to the question immediately under discussion. The agreement then specified in some detail the status of Danzig personnel at international conferences, their relations to a Polish delegate or Polish personnel, Danzig's position and the position of her personnel in the list of States and delegations represented at the Conference, the arrangements to be made for a Danzig vote, for the presentation to the Conference of the Danzig point of view, for the payment of the expenses of Danzig personnel, and for direct contact between Danzig administrations and others in the case of technical organisations.

The Council noted this agreement.

II. — NEW DECISIONS BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

Since the last general report the High Commissioner has given eight further decisions — being his 17th to 24th inclusive ⁵. Appeals have been made against all except one, of these. One of the questions under discussion No. 3 below, was settled at the time of the recent Council session at Paris, as will be seen later.

¹ *Official Journal*, November 1922, Part II, page 1211. Document C. 728. M. 440. 1922. I. and Document C. 32 M. 12. 1923. I.

² Document C. 9. M. 6. 1923. I., and Document C. 116. M. 79. 1923. I.

³ *Official Journal*, October 1922, page 1104, and Document C. 23. 1923. I.

⁴ *Official Journal*, October 1922, page 1105, and Document C. 18. 1923. I.

⁵ For previous decisions, see *Official Journal*, October 1922, page 1100.

1. *Principles to be applied in the Leasing of Property by the Danzig Harbour Board.*

Decision of October 27th, 1922.

Appeal by Danzig. (Text of appeal and reply of Poland to it received by the Secretariat.)

This question was brought before the High Commissioner in an appeal by the Polish Government against a decision by the President of the Harbour Board concerning the interpretation of Articles 26 and 28 of the Danzig-Polish Treaty of November 9th, 1920.

After reviewing the arguments on both sides, the High Commissioner decided

“ (1) That it is necessary not only to facilitate but also to attract Polish imports and exports through the Port of Danzig, either by administering their own property themselves, or by leasing a part of their property to a tenant of any nationality who is likely to facilitate and attract those imports and exports.

“ (2) That Polish imports and exports demand more facilities than Danzig imports and exports partly because the Polish trade is a great advantage to the Free City and partly because Danzig imports and exports are already well provided for through the agency of existing and long-established Danzig traders and firms.

“ (3) That a sufficient portion of the Harbour Board property will remain under the direct control, administration and exploitation of the Harbour Board to ensure that the responsibilities of the Board, as indicated in Chapter III of the Treaty, and as interpreted in this decision, are not detrimentally affected, that facilities remain for the imports and exports of the Polish Government and for those imports and exports of all kinds which demand temporary accommodation only, or are required by Polish or Danzig merchants who have no agencies or establishments in the Port itself.

“ (4) That if any part of the Harbour Board property is to be leased, a tenant shall be selected who, owing to the nature of his trade, his commercial status, and other conditions, is most likely to improve the activity of the Port, and facilitate its exploitation. In the event of a trader or a firm of recognised Polish nationality being in competition for the lease of Harbour Board property with one of recognised Danzig nationality, both being equally desirable as a tenant, preference will be given to the one of Polish nationality.”

2. *Principles to be applied with regard to the conclusion of Treaties affecting the Interests of the Free City, and the case of the Danzig-Memel Agreement concerning Merchant Seamen.*

Decision of November 3rd, 1922.

Appeal by Danzig. (Text received — consideration of the matter postponed by agreement of both parties.)

The High Commissioner, at the request of the Danzig Government, gave a decision concerning an Agreement regarding the registration and discharge of merchant seamen, which was concluded by Poland, on behalf of the Free City, with Memel. The dispute arose because the Polish Government, without consulting Danzig, added to the Agreement a paragraph regarding its duration. The question was as to whether the procedure required by the Treaty of November 9th, 1920, had been followed and whether the Agreement had to be ratified by the Danzig Parliament.

After reviewing the position, the High Commissioner decided

“ (1) That the terms of Articles 2 and 6 of the Treaty of November 9th, 1920, must be applied to any treaty which affects the interests of Danzig, whether that treaty is initiated entirely by the Free City or whether it is a treaty initiated by Poland which affects the interests of the Free City.

“ (2) That ratification, by the Danzig Parliament, of any treaty concluded by Poland for the Free City is not required.

“ (3) That the Government of Poland, before concluding a treaty affecting the Free City of Danzig, must consult with the Danzig Government, and if, after that consultation and during the subsequent negotiations, any alterations or additions, which affect the interests of the Free City, are introduced into the treaty, a further consultation must be held between the Governments of Poland and Danzig.

“ (4) That the Agreement in question having been negotiated by Poland in all good faith, and since the Government of Danzig has not brought forward any argument to show that the clause added by Poland without consultation with the Free City of Danzig is in any way detrimental to the Free City, and since further

definite principles are laid down in this decision, which, if accepted by both Governments or confirmed by appeal to the Council of the League of Nations, will safeguard both parties in the future, the Agreement should now be accepted by the Government of Danzig subject to any action which may be taken by the Council of the League of Nations under Article 6 (2) of the Treaty of November 9th, 1920. ”

3. *Method to be followed by Danzig in conducting correspondence concerning her Foreign Relations.*

Decision of November 28th, 1922.

Appeal by Danzig. (Withdrawn as a result of a Polish declaration.)

The High Commissioner, after referring to his decision of December 17th, 1921, concerning the conduct by Poland of the foreign relations of the Free City ¹ and after reviewing the arguments of both Governments, decided

“ That in any correspondence regarding the conduct of the foreign relations of Danzig, the Government of the Free City must address all communications direct to the diplomatic representative of the Polish Government stationed at Danzig who acts as intermediary between the Polish Government and the Government of the Free City ”

This question was discussed at Paris on February 1st, 1923, and in consequence of the declaration of the Polish Diplomatic representative which is quoted below, the Danzig Government withdrew its appeal against the High Commissioner's decision. The declaration reads

“ (1) The Polish Government is ready to accept from the Danzig Government in the German language and without translation, all correspondence concerning Danzig's foreign relations.

“ (2) On the specific request of Danzig, Poland agrees to give to the Danzig Government all possible information concerning such correspondence as may result from a specified request of Danzig to conduct certain of the foreign relations of the Free City. In so far as possible, the Polish Government will furnish the Danzig Government with copies of such correspondence.

“ (3) The Polish Government, in such correspondence concerning the foreign affairs of the Free City as may result from a special request by Danzig, will explain that it is acting in view of the fact that it conducts the foreign relations of the Free City ”

4. *Official Languages to be used by the Danzig Harbour Board.*

Decision of December 5th, 1922.

Appeals by Danzig and Poland. (Text not yet received.)

This question was brought before the High Commissioner in appeals by the Polish and Danzig Governments against a decision of the President of the Harbour Board.

After dealing with the arguments of both Governments, the High Commissioner decided

“ (1) That the Polish and German languages are to be considered as having equal rights for all purposes of the Harbour Board.

“ (2) That the President of the Harbour Board shall decide which language shall be used on any particular occasion, and that he shall base his decision entirely upon the best manner of ensuring the rapid, effective and economic administration of the Port.

“ (3) In all cases where, in written or printed letters, documents, forms, etc., it is decided by the President of the Harbour Board that it is necessary to employ both languages, the Polish language will be placed on the left and the German language on the right. ”

5. *Establishment by Poland of a Railway Direction in Danzig.*

Decision of December 12th, 1922.

Appeal by Poland. (Text not yet received.)

The High Commissioner expressed the opinion that the Polish desire for the establishment in Danzig of a Railway Direction dealing with railways in Poland as well as in Danzig

See *Official Journal*, March 1922, page 244.

territory could not, under previous treaties, decisions and agreements with regard to the railways question, be accepted as a legal right. He pointed out, however, that the question of expediency offered many arguments in favour of the Polish demand, and he concluded that a decision regarding the question of legal right might possibly influence both parties to reach an agreement in conformity with the demands of expediency. His decision reads

“That Poland has no right to establish on Danzig territory a Railway Direction which deals with the management of railways other than those situated within the territory of the Free City, except by agreement with the Free City of Danzig.”

6. *Claim by Poland against Danzig for Demurrage in the case of the Unloading of a Munitions Ship.*

Decision of December 20th, 1922.

Appeal by Poland. (Text received.)

At the request of the Polish Government, the High Commissioner considered the question of responsibility as between the Danzig and Polish Governments for the payment of demurrage charges in the case of a ship which was unloading munitions for Poland in November 1921. The Polish Government claimed that the instructions issued by the Danzig authorities with regard to the method of unloading this ammunition and which occasioned the charges in question were unnecessary. The High Commissioner expressed the view that Danzig was justified in taking every precaution to avoid accident, and decided

“That the Danzig Government was justified in issuing the instructions complained of regarding the unloading of explosives from the ship in question, and cannot be called upon to pay for the demurrage resulting from those instructions.”

7. *Establishment of a Letter-Sorting Office by the Polish Postal Service in the Main Railway Station at Danzig.*

Decision of December 23rd, 1922.

Appeal by Poland. (Text not yet received.)

After dealing at length with the arguments of both Governments and with the application of the provisions of the Danzig-Polish Treaty of November 9th, 1920, and of his decision of May 25th, 1922, concerning the establishment of a Polish postal service in Danzig, the High Commissioner expressed the view that the establishment of a letter-sorting office by the Polish Postal Service in the main railway station at Danzig was not absolutely necessary and might do an injustice to the Danzig postal service. He decided

“That the Polish postal service has not the right to establish in the railway station at Danzig a letter-sorting office, and that such work must be done in the building already allotted to Poland for her postal service, or in the Polish postal railway wagons.”

8. *Establishment of the Polish Official Travelling Agency in the Main Railway Station at Danzig.*

Decision of December 31st, 1922 (accepted by both Governments).

In view of a request by the Danzig Government, the High Commissioner, after reviewing at some length the arguments submitted by the two parties as well as various aspects of the above question, explained the application to it of his decisions of August 15th, 1921, and of September 5th, 1921¹ concerning the railways in the Free City, and decided as follows

“(1) That Poland was not justified in establishing a Polish firm in the chief railway station at Danzig for the purpose of selling tickets to the public, even when that firm was ostensibly included in the railway administration, without first considering the objections put forward by the Danzig delegate on the Polish railway administration, and giving the Danzig Government an opportunity of expressing its views.

“(2) That, if the Polish railway administration is unable, for technical or economical reasons, to find the necessary personnel to manage the sale of these tickets on the premises of the chief railway station at Danzig according to the terms of paragraph 15 of my decision dated September 5th, 1921, and if it desires to employ

See *Official Journal*, November 1921, pages 974-978.

a private firm for the purpose, the question must be settled by negotiations between the two Governments within the next three months.

“(3) That until this agreement is reached or decided under Article 39 of the Treaty of November 9th, 1920, the existing arrangement shall be continued, if so desired by the Polish railway administration.

III. — POLONO-DANZIG AGREEMENTS.

Agreements in addition to those already mentioned have been concluded between the Danzig and Polish Governments, either under the auspices of the High Commissioner or in some other way. These agreements refer to the following questions

1. *The Legal Status of Polish Officials in Danzig.*

As the result of negotiations in Paris during the recent Council session, the following provisional agreement was reached on February 1st, 1923, concerning the interpretation to be given to Article 6 of the Agreement of May 17th, 1922, which deals with the legal status of Polish officials in Danzig

[Translation.]

“The President of the Senate of the Free City of Danzig and the Diplomatic Representative of Poland at Danzig, have, under the auspices of the High Commissioner of the League of Nations and with the assistance of the Secretariat of the League, this day concluded the following agreement

“The two Parties agree that the question of the interpretation to be given to Article 6 of the Agreement of May 17th, 1922, with regard to the legal status of Polish officials at Danzig shall be the subject of subsequent negotiations between the Parties. Each Party reserves the right to request the High Commissioner of the League of Nations at Danzig to give a decision in this matter.

“Until an agreement has been arrived at, or until the question has been settled by a decision of the High Commissioner, or, if necessary by a decision of the Council of the League of Nations, the Government of Danzig will not collect any taxes from Polish citizens who are on the staff of the Diplomatic Representative of Poland at Danzig. The Diplomatic Representative of Poland undertakes that, during this period, the total number of persons thus exempted from taxation shall not exceed one hundred. He shall, however, have the right, in the course of any negotiations which may take place before the High Commissioner or the Council of the League, to request that a larger number shall enjoy the privileges mentioned in Article 6 of the Agreement of May 17th, 1922. The President of the Danzig Senate considers the number of one hundred to be much too high and only accepts it provisionally pending a final solution. The two Parties desire to emphasise the fact that it is clearly understood that this agreement shall not in any way prejudice the final solution.

“The list of Polish staff above mentioned shall be submitted to the Government of Danzig before February 20th, 1923.”

(2) *Expulsion of Polish Nationals from Danzig.*

The Agreement between the Polish and Danzig Governments concerning the procedure to be followed in cases of expulsion of Polish nationals from Danzig, which was mentioned in the last general report, was signed at Danzig on August 17th, 1922, and reads as follows

[Translation from the German.]

“The Council of the League of Nations, at its meeting of May 13th, 1922, has adopted the following report of His Excellency the Ambassador Adatci¹. In conformity with this report the Senate of the Free City of Danzig and the Government of the Polish Republic have concluded the following Agreement concerning the procedure to be adopted in the case of expulsion from the Territory of the Free City of a Polish national.

I.

“(1) The authorities of the Free City of Danzig, in the event of their deciding upon the expulsion of a Polish national, exclusive of urgent and clear cases mentioned under Article II, shall not put the expulsion into effect until they have communicated to the diplomatic representative of the Polish Government the decision reached, together with an explanatory statement, as provided for by Article III, and until four weeks after the communication of this decision.

“Should the Government of the Polish Republic desire to raise objections to the expulsion, because in its opinion Article 29 of the Agreement of October 24th, 1921, has been misapplied,

See *Official Journal*, June 1922 (Part II), pages 673 and 674.

it shall communicate its objections and the reasons therefore to the Government of the Free City within the period of four weeks.

“ The Danzig authorities shall then postpone the expulsion for another week, during which the High Commissioner shall give his decision.

“(2) (a) Should the High Commissioner decide that the expulsion is an *infringement* of Article 29, paragraph 1, of the Agreement of October 24th, 1921, the Danzig authorities shall not effect the expulsion while reserving their right of appeal to the Council of the League of Nations. In the meantime, no action shall be taken against the person in question unless the latter gives cause for proceedings as provided for under Article II.

“(2) (b) Should the High Commissioner decide that the expulsion is not an *infringement* of Article 29, paragraph 1, of the Agreement of October 24th, 1921, the expulsion shall be effected by the Danzig authorities, without prejudice to the right of the diplomatic representative of the Polish Government to appeal against the decision of the High Commissioner.

II.

“ In cases falling under one of the headings described below — that is, urgent and clear cases — the Danzig authorities shall immediately inform the representative of the Polish Government of the expulsion of a Polish national. They shall be at liberty to effect the expulsion without any specified time limit, and without prejudice to the rights of the Polish Government to refer the matter to the High Commissioner of the League of Nations for his decision.

“ This procedure may be followed in cases where a Polish national

“(a) On account of any punishable offence, has had a final sentence passed upon him by the competent tribunal or is suspected of a punishable offence in circumstances which would justify his prosecution by the public authority

“(b) Is a serious menace to the health of the population

“(c) Claims for himself and his dependents the support of public benevolent institutions or such private benevolent institutions as are not specially intended to provide for persons other than Danzig nationals

“(d) Cannot furnish proof of an income derived from regular employment during the last four weeks amounting to a sum at least equal to the unemployment grant allowed in Danzig, or cannot prove that he is in possession of means, equal to the aforesaid unemployment grant, for a period of at least one month.

III,

“ In case I the statement provided for shall give in general terms the reasons indicated in Article 29 of the Agreement of October 24th, 1921, for the expulsion.

“ In case II the statement shall indicate the particular offence that has been committed or which it is assumed has been committed.

IV

“(1) The right of a Polish national to hold property on Danzig territory and to dispose of it, and to take his movable property with him shall not be affected by his expulsion.

“(2) A Polish national who has been expelled, but who wishes again to enter Danzig territory, either to take a permanent residence or to stay only for a short time, or merely to travel through the territory of the Free City of Danzig, shall apply to the authorities of the Free City either direct or through his Government. The Free City of Danzig shall not refuse such a request without good reasons and shall give information without delay either by letter or by telegram according to the urgency of the case.

“(3) In the event of a refusal on the part of the Danzig Government, the Government of the Polish Republic shall be at liberty to exercise the right of appeal provided for by Article 39 of the Polish-Danzig Treaty of November 9th, 1920.

V

“ After five years, either of the two Governments shall be at liberty to call for a revision of this Agreement.

VI.

“ The decision of the High Commissioner of the League of Nations given on December 16th, 1921, before the coming into force of the Agreement of October 24th, 1921, has, with his consent, been declared to be annulled by the present Agreement, since it was concluded with his co-operation and in his presence. ”

(3) *Legal Status of the President, Commissioners, Officials, Employees, Offices and Archives of the Harbour Board.*

The High Commissioner has informed the Secretary-General that the Polish and Danzig Governments have accepted the agreement quoted below, which was reached by the Polish and Danzig representatives at a meeting in his office in Danzig on November 24th, 1922

I.

“ The President of the Harbour Board enjoys diplomatic privileges and immunities on the territory of Poland as well as on the territory of the Free City of Danzig.

II.

“ The Commissioners nominated by the Polish Government according to the terms of Article 19 of the Treaty of November 9th, 1920, will have the right to the diplomatic privileges and immunities only on the territory of the Free City.

“ The Commissioners nominated by the Free City according to the terms of Article 19, will have the right to the diplomatic privileges and immunities only on the territory of Poland.

III.

“ Article 3 of the Agreement drawn up at Geneva on May 17th, 1922, which concerns the functionaries and employees of the Polish Republic in Danzig, applies equally to the functionaries and employees of the Polish Delegation to the Harbour Board.

IV

“ The status of the functionaries and employees of the President of the Harbour Board, and the inviolability of the bureaux and archives of the President should be dealt with by the President of the Harbour Board, who should put forward suggestions for the consideration of the Governments of Poland and Danzig. ”

(4) *Special Arrangements with regard to Danzig Imports and Exports.*

In November 1922, the High Commissioner reported that certain differences, which at one time appeared serious, had arisen with regard to the interpretation and execution of Article 211 and following Articles of the Polish-Danzig Agreement of October 24th, 1921, and particularly as regards the special import and export conditions of various articles to be granted to Danzig. An agreement on this matter was, however, finally reached and a Protocol was signed in Danzig by representatives of the two Governments on November 21st, 1922.

(5) *Other Questions settled by Agreement.*

The High Commissioner reported on October 28th, 1922, that the following questions had also been settled by agreement between the Danzig and Polish Governments

- (a) A protest by the Danzig Senate against a Polish surveying party for having entered the Vistula in Danzig territory without permission.
- (b) A question concerning the period of validity of the identity cards for Polish and Danzig nationals crossing the common frontier.
- (c) The establishment of an emigration camp in Danzig.

IV OTHER QUESTIONS.

(1) *Memorandum from the Danzig Government concerning relations between Poland and Danzig.*

This document was forwarded on January 11th, 1923, through the High Commissioner to the Secretary-General and gives Danzig's views on the various questions which had led to differences between Danzig and Poland during the preceding months. Some of the subjects considered are the importance of Polish trade for Danzig the control of aliens in the Free City the customs licences for Polish firms to trade in Danzig the acquisition of landed property in Danzig by Polish nationals mutual economic concessions the interpretation of Article 33 of the Treaty of November 9th, 1920 and the conduct by Poland of the foreign relations of the Free City

(2) *Special Treatment of Polish Nationals in Danzig.*

In a letter dated January 19th, 1923, the High Commissioner reviewed the question of the special treatment of Polish nationals in Danzig, and forwarded a letter from the Danzig Government which indicates the special terms accorded to Polish nationals as regards registration with the police, certification of identity cards, *permis de séjour* and permission for certain officials to wear their uniforms in Danzig. The High Commissioner pointed out that the Danzig Government had met the wishes of the Polish Government in this respect in a satisfactory manner, and, in his opinion, should be given full credit for having done so.

(3) *The Size of the Danzig Harbour Board.*

On December 4th, 1922, the High Commissioner, in a letter to the Polish and Danzig representatives, considered the question of the number of members on the Harbour Board, which now amounts to ten, appointed equally by the Polish and Danzig Governments. He stated that the subject had been broached at a meeting in his office and, after consulting the President of the Board and representatives of both Governments, he had found it to be the concensus of opinion that, particularly in view of the recent appointment of two technical directors, a reduction of the number of members on the Board would be an advantage from the standpoint of the efficient working of the organisation of the control, administration and exploitation of the port. The High Commissioner expressed himself as very much in favour of this.

(4) *Depôt for Polish War Material in Transit.*

The High Commissioner informed the Secretary-General on October 28th, 1922, that the Committee, provided for under paragraph (e) of his decision of April 7th, 1922, to draw up regulations for munition ships and for the unloading and despatching of explosives, had been constituted under the presidency of Admiral Borowski (Poland).

As a result of a Polono-Danzig Agreement, reached in the middle of October 1922, the Harbour Board continued for a short time after that date to let the property named in the High Commissioner's decision as the temporary site for this depôt. The High Commissioner has also forwarded to the Secretary-General certain correspondence from the Polish diplomatic representative in Danzig with regard to the possibility of extending the area allotted to Poland for this depôt. The High Commissioner, in his reply to the Polish representative, stated that the proposal put forward by the Polish Government appeared to exceed the requirements of a depôt for war material *in transit*.

(5) *Participation of Danzig in certain Treaties and Conventions.*

In addition to those treaties and conventions affecting Danzig which have been specially considered by the Council in accordance with Article 6 of the Polono-Danzig Treaty of November 9th, 1920 — the Polish representative in Danzig informed the High Commissioner on May 20th, 1922, that Danzig had adhered to the following international Conventions (1) The Universal Postal Union. (2) The International Telegraphic Union. (3) The International Radio-Telegraphic Convention of July 5th, 1912. (4) The International Convention concerning the prohibition of night-work for women employed in industry. (5) The International Agreement of May 4th, 1910, with regard to the suppression of the circulation of obscene publications. (6) International Convention of May 4th, 1910, with regard to the suppression of the traffic in women and children. (7) Convention dated March 20th, 1883, of the Union for the Protection of Industrial Property revised at Brussels, December 14th, 1900, and at Washington, June 1st, 1911. (8) Convention of December 21st, 1904, concerning hospital buildings. (9) Convention of September 23rd, 1910, for the unification of certain regulations with regard to rescue at sea and from shipwreck. (10) International Convention of March 19th, 1902, concerning the preservation of birds useful for agriculture. (11) Agreement of June 30th, 1920, with regard to the renewing or the restoration of the rights of industrial property which were infringed upon by the world war. (12) International Convention of July 6th, 1906, concerning the care of the wounded and sick in armies in the field (Red Cross). (13) International Opium Convention of January 23rd, 1912. (14) International Convention of September 26th, 1906, concerning the prohibition of the use of white (yellow) phosphorus in the making of matches.

The Polish Government has registered with the Secretariat of the League the participation of Danzig in the Agreements Nos. 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 above as well as in the following Germano-Danzig Options Convention of November 8th, 1920 the provisional arrangement between Poland (in the name of Danzig) and Memel, regarding the registration and disbandment of sailors in Danzig and Memel.

There was a difference between Poland and Danzig concerning the Danzig-Memel Agreement and the High Commissioner gave a decision in the matter on November 3rd, 1922, as stated in Part II of this report.

The High Commissioner has not exercised his power of veto under Article 6 of the Treaty of November 9th, 1920, with regard to the participation of Danzig in any of the agreements mentioned above.

(6) *High Commissioner's Post. Financial Situation.*

Poland and Danzig have, since the last report, paid to the Financial Administration a total of 70,000 gold francs, the sum requested to meet the advances made by the League of Nations for the upkeep of the High Commissioner's post up to the end of September, 1922. ¶
Advances amounting to approximately 35,000 gold francs were required for the quarterly period from October 1st to December 31st, 1922, so that a sum of 17,500 gold francs has been requested both from the Danzig and from the Polish Government.

(7) *Miscellaneous Questions.*

Correspondence has also been received on the following subjects

(a) The control and administration of the Vistula within the Territory of the Free City — with regard to the execution of the provisions of Article 20 (3) of the Treaty of November 9th, 1920.

(b) The interpretation and execution of Article 39 of the Treaty of November 9th, 1920 — the High Commissioner has called the attention of both the Polish and Danzig Governments to the fundamental importance of the provisions of this Article, and has suggested certain methods of facilitating its application.

(c) The interpretation of Article 33 of the Treaty of November 9th, 1920 — especially as regards the possibility of a new Danzig law concerning the control by the Danzig Senate of the sale of property within the Free City

(d) The interpretation of the Polono-Danzig Agreement of May 17th, 1922, as regards the legal status of Polish Government property in Danzig.

(e) The participation of Danzig in the Germano-Polish economic negotiations — the High Commissioner has reported that Poland will inform Danzig when negotiations affecting Danzig's interests are opened and will then accept a Danzig delegate.

(f) Delays in the handling of questions concerning Danzig's foreign relations — complaint by the British Government.

(g) The sale or mortgage by the Harbour Board of property received under Article 25 of the Treaty of November 9th, 1920.

(h) The police for the Harbour Board — lengthy negotiations have been held on this subject.

(i) Interpretation and execution of Article 6 of the Treaty of November 9th, 1920.

(j) German officials in Danzig.

(k) Cost of Polish visas for Danzig nationals.

(l) Refusal of the Polish railway administration to accept Danzig "Notgeld" and Danzig cheques.

(m) Deportation of Russians from Poland to Danzig.

(n) Proposed Danzigo-Swedish Navigation Treaty