

It is, of course, understood that, if the Free City should in the future, as the result of any arrangement for priority in credit operations, desire to contract any foreign loan, the Polish Government will be consulted, in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 of the Polish-Danzig Treaty of November 9th, 1920.

I beg to propose the following resolution for adoption

“The Council approves the recommendation of the Financial Committee and authorises the Secretary-General, acting in consultation with the Financial Committee, to undertake the necessary negotiations with the Reparation Commission and the Conference of Ambassadors, and decides that the resolution of the Financial Committee and the accompanying documents be communicated forthwith to the Danzig Government for its observations.”

Annex 447.

C. 104 (1). M. 50. 1923. I.

THE POLICE OF THE FREE CITY OF DANZIG.

Report by M. Adatci submitted to the Council on January 30th, 1923.

On October 4th, 1922¹ the French representative on the Council read a telegram from the French Prime Minister concerning the Danzig Police and their attitude in connection with certain incidents between French sailors and Danzig inhabitants during a recent visit to Danzig of the French Naval Division of the Baltic. M. Hanotaux stated that, if the facts were correct, the French Government would demand the reorganisation of the Danzig Police. At his request the Council decided to ask for the observations of the High Commissioner and to place the question on the agenda of its next session. The text of the telegram from M. Poincare, together with two memoranda on the subject, have been circulated for the consideration of the Council.

In a letter dated December 14th, 1922, the High Commissioner submitted his observations and forwarded two letters from the President of the Danzig Senate on this subject.

At the meeting of the Council on September 9th, 1922² when the financial situation of Danzig was discussed, the French representative on the Council called attention to the question of expenditure on the Danzig Police. Copies of the Police budgets for the financial year 1921 have therefore been forwarded to the Secretariat, and a summary of the statistics showing the strength of the Police and the expenditure upon them has been circulated to the Council. Detailed budget estimates for the financial year 1922 have also been received recently in the Secretariat.

In addition to the general complaint against the Danzig Police on the ground of incapacity and partiality as regards the protection of French nationals and sailors, a specific complaint has been made on account of the export duties imposed in Danzig on goods bought locally by the crews of visiting warships, and of the annoyance caused in the execution of Customs formalities. The President of the Danzig Senate has shown the actual position with regard to the levying of import and export duties and taxes, and the High Commissioner has explained the special need for the control of the export of food-stuffs from Danzig. The High Commissioner has added that he believes proper steps are being taken by the Government of the Free City to ensure that the Danzig Customs officials adopt a more correct attitude and understand that they are the servants of the public, and that they should avoid irritating or treating roughly the inhabitants of or visitors to the Territory.

Specific complaints have also been made against the attitude adopted by the authorities of the Free City to the wearing of uniform by French sailors. It has been stated that difficulties were put in the way of officers and men of the French Naval Division in this connection. The Danzig Senate and the High Commissioner have both pointed out that the decree regarding the wearing of foreign uniform in Danzig does not apply to naval personnel.

Mistakes which may have been made by subordinate officials, shortly after the coming into force of this decree, should not, in the opinion of the High Commissioner, have occurred, but the lesson has been learnt and such mistakes are not likely to be repeated.

Six or seven specific instances, at various times from November 11th, 1920, to September 1922, have been cited in the communications from the French Government to indicate that

¹ See *Official Journal*, November 1922 (Part II), page 1211.
See *Official Journal*, November 1922 (Part II), page 1181.

the Danzig Police are inefficient, that they have shown themselves unequal to their task when it is a question of defending French sailors, and that there is evidence of an attitude of deliberate hostility to the French uniform and French nationals. The Danzig Government, in reply, has given its observations on the cases mentioned in the French memoranda. It maintains that these explanations prove that the local authorities always try to carry out, as far as possible, the wishes of the French Consul. The Danzig Government concludes by stating that the small number of incidents which have occurred during the numerous visits of foreign fleets proves that the population of Danzig is of a peaceful disposition, and that the authorities, particularly the Police, carry out their duty in a trustworthy manner.

The High Commissioner is of the opinion that, although the Danzig Police have, in the past, been overbearing in their manner towards Danzigers and foreigners alike, effective steps have been taken by the Danzig Government to insist upon polite and correct behaviour on their part, and that a steady improvement has taken place in this matter, no doubt owing to the enquiries set on foot by the French Government. In his opinion, neither the Danzig Security Police nor the inhabitants of the Free City are especially opposed to the French sailors or the French uniform. Incidents similar to those which took place during the visit of the French Naval Division to Danzig have, he says, occurred at the visits of warships of other nations. Disturbances of this nature are always difficult to deal with. The Police cannot be everywhere, and, in his view, they did what was possible to protect the French sailors during the occurrences in question.

From the budget estimates it appears that the total strength of the Security Police is 1,161 officers, officials and policemen, and that of the Administrative Police 420, while the Rural Police number under 50. In addition, there is a Security Police reserve of 1,000 men, doing two days' training a month, and a Civic Guard of 3,000, doing four days' training a year. The estimated total net expenditure within the Free City on the Police forces amounted in the financial year 1921-22 to 44,500,000 German marks, out of a total estimated budget expenditure of slightly over 425,000,000 marks.

The High Commissioner states that he is of opinion that the number of local police is not more than is absolutely required for the security of life and property in the territory of the Free City and he does not think that any radical change in their organisation is necessary.

Furthermore, he is of opinion that Danzig, although in a bad position financially, does better to spend money on an adequate police force than to risk disaster through disturbances caused by the bad economic situation. Moreover, he points out that the Free City includes a territory of some 754 square miles, and contains an alien population consisting of some 36,000 Poles and 17,000 other nationals who require protection. He adds that it should be remembered that, in comparison with Danzig, other sea-ports are administered by much larger States backed up by military forces, and that in such ports the police have mainly to deal with their own nationals. The High Commissioner concludes with the statement that, if his report is accepted and no further action is demanded, he feels sure that the enquiry set on foot by the French Government will have a very good effect and will produce a marked improvement in the action and methods of the local police.

Before making any suggestion as to the action to be taken in the matter, I would like to know whether my French colleague has any observations to make, as the matter has by been brought before us by his Government.

Annex 448.

C. 109 (1). M. 61. 1922. I.

RESIGNATION OF GENERAL HAKING AS HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE FREE CITY OF DANZIG.

Report by M. Adatci and Resolution adopted by the Council on January 30th, 1923.

General Sir Richard Haking, the first permanent High Commissioner of the League of Nations at Danzig after the establishment of the Free City, was originally appointed on December 17th, 1920, to hold office for one year from the date of his departure for Danzig, which took place on January 20th, 1921. On January 13th, 1922, his appointment was renewed for a further period of one year, and would, therefore, normally have expired on January 19th, 1923. The President of the Council has, however, requested him to remain