

1416. Free City of Danzig Participation of Danzig in the Stockholm Postal Congress.

M. QUIÑONES DE LEON read his report (Annex 725).

M. STRASBURGER was of the opinion that the suggestion made by the Rapporteur in no way modified previous agreements. He accordingly entirely associated himself with the proposals submitted to the Council.

Mr. MACDONNELL (High Commissioner) regretted that there was no stronger opinion expressed concerning the fact of this case having come up at all. It was a case which never need have come up, and a great deal of his time and that of the Council was taken up by examining cases which should never appear at all. Such cases would not come before the Council if the parties would simply execute the agreements they made, instead of disputing about their terms. He had hoped to see in the report a rather stronger expression of the view of the Council that it disapproved of those cases being brought up to it when their reference to the Council could very easily be avoided, and he would like, with the permission of the President, to make certain proposals later to attain that end.

M. QUIÑONES DE LEON said that, as Rapporteur, he agreed with the High Commissioner and assured him that the desire of all the members of the Council was to strengthen his authority

The report was adopted.

1417 Free City of Danzig Adjournment of Three Questions relating to the Free City

M. QUIÑONES DE LEON reminded the Council that the three following questions still remained upon its agenda

1. The principles applicable to the conclusion of agreements between Danzig and Poland.

2. Transformation of public institutions the affair of "Die Danzig"

3. The application of the Polish Customs Law of July 31st, 1924, to Danzig territory

He proposed that the Council should postpone the examination of these three questions to its next session. It seemed impossible to ask the Council to take a decision in these matters without giving its members the time necessary to study more in detail the documents which had reached them only a very short time before the beginning of the session.

As regards the question of the application of the Polish Customs Law of July 31st, 1924, the Polish delegate, to whom he had communicated his intention of proposing the postponement of these various questions, had informed him that in spite of this postponement the Polish Government, in the interests of the Free City of Danzig, was prepared to regard as having already entered into force the provisions contemplated in paragraph (c) of the Decision of the High Commissioner of November 6th, 1924.

M. SAHM regretted the delay which had occurred in regulating the first and third questions in particular. These questions were of present interest and capital importance.

The first question involved political factors. In the decision of the High Commissioner the fact had been clearly confirmed that the Free City of Danzig was a State — a fact already laid down in the Danzig Constitution, approved and guaranteed by the Council of the League. As Poland alone had some doubts as to this fact which was nowhere else disputed, this would certainly result in friction with the Polish Government. The other question was equally delicate from the economic point of view, and the decision was of capital importance from the point of view of the Free City. He would ask the representative of Poland to extend the scope of his declaration. He would ask him to declare that, without prejudging the question of law, the Polish Government, before putting into force any new stipulations concerning alterations of the existing export duties or new duties of that kind, would give the Danzig Government an opportunity of expressing its views in order to protect the interests of the economic life of the Free City

M. STRASBURGER observed that the second of the questions mentioned by the representative of Danzig was equally of very great importance for Poland. It would therefore be advisable to examine this question more thoroughly before taking a decision.

As regards the question of agreements, he considered that its scope was not only political but also legal. It was a very serious and complex question which it would be necessary to examine with the greatest care.

As to the third question — namely the application of the Polish Customs Law — he would forward to his Government, *ad referendum*, the wishes expressed by the President of the Senate of Danzig.

Personally he was of opinion that in this case the industrialists and traders of Danzig ought to be placed entirely on the same footing as Polish industrialists and traders.