

In taking note of the present resolution, the Polish Government, in order to prevent any complications in the relations between Poland and Danzig in the future, reserved the right to appeal to the competent authorities in order to obtain a statement of their attitude on the question, as well as the right to submit the question once more to the Council if the attitude of those authorities were to create a new situation.

Poland accepted the resolution proposed by the Rapporteur.

The Council adopted the above resolution.

1466. Free City of Danzig. Application of the Polish Customs Law of July 31st, 1924, to Danzig Territory

M. QUIÑONES DE LEÓN read his report (Annex 752), which concluded as follows:

“ The decision of the High Commissioner may therefore be confirmed by the Council without its being necessary to deliver any formal ruling on the interpretation of various clauses of the Agreement of Warsaw which deal with the question of previous consultation. In order, however, to facilitate the close co-operation which should exist between Poland and Danzig and their respective trades, it would be advisable in future, when it is proposed to modify existing export duties or to impose new duties of this kind, that the Polish Government should give Danzig the opportunity of submitting its observations before the new regulations are applied to the territory of the Free City

“ I beg to submit the following draft resolution to the Council:

“ The Council adopts the report of the Spanish representative dated March 13th, 1925, regarding the application of the Polish Law of July 31st, 1924, in the territory of Danzig, and confirms the High Commissioner's decision of November 6th, 1924, on this subject. ”

He explained that, after he had drawn up his report, he had received a note from the Danzig delegation dated March 11th, 1925, which raised a point of interpretation in regard to the decision of the High Commissioner. In view of the short time at his disposal for examining this question, he had hesitated to take a decision. He thought that the question would be solved when the negotiations took place, as provided for in paragraph (b) of the decision of the High Commissioner. He did not think it necessary to postpone the confirmation of the decision of the High Commissioner because of this question of interpretation.

M. SAHM said that the Government of Danzig regretted that the report of the Rapporteur did not deal with the main point which Danzig had made. The question of export duties was considered in any country in relation to the special nature and needs of that country. The economic means of Danzig and those of Poland were very different, although those States were united by numerous economic links. Danzig was an exporting country and a country of transit, while Poland was above all an agricultural country.

Nevertheless, an important amendment had been introduced in the report, to the effect that Danzig produce was free from all export duty and that the transit through Danzig was guaranteed. Furthermore, no change would be introduced into the Customs provisions unless the Danzig representatives were consulted on the question. Danzig hoped that account would be taken of these provisions, for, up to the present, the measures attempted according to the directions laid down in the decision of the High Commissioner had too often resulted in new divergencies of interpretation and consequent economic injury to Danzig.

He had submitted to the Council a note on this subject and it was unfortunate that there was a risk that the decision of the High Commissioner might lead to a new appeal to the Council on the interpretation of the decision. To prevent all discussion, he hoped that the Council would clearly state that its decision meant complete freedom of duty for all Danzig produce.

M. QUIÑONES DE LEÓN said that the note had only arrived the day before. He therefore proposed that the report should be adopted and that account should be taken of the suggestion of the President of the Senate of the Free City.

Mr. MACDONNELL said that, if he had understood President Sahn rightly the Free City of Danzig already appeared to see the necessity of applying to the Council for an interpretation of his decision. M. Sahn apparently said that, if the present resolution were maintained, it would lead immediately to a new request to the High Commissioner for a decision. This seemed to him to prove the point which he had already emphasised — that the Council should find some other method of dealing with these technical matters.

M. QUIÑONES DE LEÓN agreed with the High Commissioner.

The resolution proposed by the Rapporteur was adopted.

1467 Free City of Danzig Appointment of the President of the Harbour Board.

M. QUIÑONES DE LEÓN read his report, which was approved (Annex 753). He was glad to learn that Colonel de Reynier could remain at his post until the new President had taken up his duties.

He hoped that the Council would thank Colonel de Reynier for the work he had done.

The PRESIDENT, on behalf of the Council, thanked Colonel de Reynier for his services.

M. QUIÑONES DE LEÓN said that he desired to recommend that the Polish Government and the President of the Senate of Danzig should endeavour, by amicable conversations between themselves, to reach an understanding. He thanked M. Colban and his assistants for all the help he had received from them.

M. SKRZYNSKI desired to state how much his Government regretted that Colonel de Reynier would be unable to continue his work as President of the Harbour Board and how grateful the Polish Government was to him for the competence and impartiality which he had always shown.

He also desired to thank the Rapporteur for the great diplomatic talent he had shown in his difficult work. He also thanked the officials of the Secretariat who, by their zeal and devotion, helped so largely in the settlement of the disputes.

M. SAHM thanked Colonel de Reynier for the zeal which he had shown in his very delicate duties and for the ability which he had displayed in solving the various difficulties which had arisen.

In regard to the recommendation made by the Rapporteur, he desired to say in the name of his Government, that it would do its utmost to carry on direct negotiations with the Polish Government.

He also desired to thank the High Commissioner and the Council for the time that they had devoted to Danzig questions.

The PRESIDENT, on behalf of the Council, offered his thanks to the High Commissioner. The number of questions which the Council had had to deal with at one sitting had given the members an opportunity of judging what were the difficulties inherent in the task imposed upon him.

In fulfilment of the desire of his colleagues, he also offered the thanks of the Council to the Rapporteur for the assistance which he had given in the many questions which had arisen between Poland and Danzig. These questions had been of great difficulty and delicacy and the Council was much indebted to M. Quiñones de León for the time, labour and judgment he had given to their solution and which had greatly facilitated the task of the Council.

TENTH MEETING (PRIVATE)

Held at Geneva on Saturday March 14th, 1925, at 10 a.m.

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

1468. Traffic in Opium and other Dangerous Drugs: Signature by the Soudan of the Convention adopted by the Second Opium Conference.

The PRESIDENT said that the letter of the Secretary-General relative to the signature of the Convention adopted by the Second Opium Conference by the Soudan should be addressed to the Governor-General, who would decide whether the Soudan should sign or accede to the Convention and by whose duly authorised representatives such signature or accession would be effected.

The Secretary-General took note of the President's statement.

1469. Free City of Danzig. Appointment of the President of the Harbour Board.

M. Sahn, representative of the Free City and M. Strasburger, representative of the Polish Government, came to the Council table.

The Council adopted the following resolution

"1. Colonel HUGUES DE LOËS (Swiss) is appointed President of the Danzig Port and Waterways Board for a period of three years dating from the day when he assumes his duties.

"2. The President of the Port and Waterways Board shall be entitled to receive from the Board a salary of 60,000 gold francs per annum.

"3. Colonel de Reynier will continue to occupy the post of President until the new President takes up his duties."

M. Sahn withdrew.

1470. Transfer by the German Government to the Polish Government of the Social Insurance Fund in the Upper Silesian Territory ceded by Germany to Poland.

A note on this question from the Polish Government, dated March 8th, 1925 (Annex 754), was laid before the Council.