

subsequently been studied by the Council and by the technical organisations. The Council had had submitted to it, a year previously a scheme drawn up by the Financial Committee in which a certain number of general and political questions had remained open. The tenth Assembly and, in particular, its Third Committee, had studied the question in all its aspects and, as a result of that discussion, the scheme now submitted to the Council had been drawn up jointly by the Financial Committee and the Committee on Arbitration and Security, upon which most of the States Members of the League were represented.

M. Procopé ventured, therefore, to state that the preparation of the scheme had been as thorough as possible and that the question should now be considered ripe for a final decision in the autumn. He expressed the sincere hope that the Assembly of the League would draw up a final text and submit it to the States for signature, under the conditions laid down in the draft.

As far as the contents of the scheme were concerned, there were certain rather important points in regard to which the proposed stipulations might have been given a different form. Taking into consideration, however, the situation as it existed at the first Assembly, it must be recognised that the draft corresponded, in its main lines, to what it was possible to achieve in the present circumstances.

It was clear that the provisions of the scheme had been hedged round with every possible precaution against surprise, so that there need be no hesitation in approving the Convention and causing it to become an integral part of the League organisation. M. Procope would also once more emphasise the fact that the sole object of this scheme for financial assistance was peaceful and that the scheme was directed against no one. There was reason to hope that the conclusion of a treaty on this matter, which in itself was an act of international solidarity, would be a useful addition to the work of international reorganisation to ensure peace and prevent war.

Finally M. Procope paid a tribute to the spirit of conciliation shown by all members of the Committee on Arbitration and Security. He felt especially grateful to the members of the Financial Committee and to the services of the Secretariat concerned for their efforts to bring this matter to a successful conclusion.

Dr. CURTIUS also expressed the hope that a satisfactory result could be reached at the next session of the Assembly. Nevertheless, it should be clearly recognised that, despite the goodwill shown during its recent session, the Committee on Arbitration and Security had not been able to obtain the desired result. For that reason, Dr. Curtius considered that the Council should make an urgent appeal to all States to spare no effort, in the short time at their disposal before the Assembly, to ensure that success would then be achieved.

At the same time, Dr. Curtius emphasised the importance of financial assistance in the general work of consolidating peace and re-establishing good understanding between nations.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council associated itself completely with these observations.

M. CORNEJO recalled that he had had the honour to take part in the work of the Committee on Arbitration and Security and, as a member of that Committee, he wished to thank the representatives of Spain and Finland for their kind references to its work.

In so far as the Peruvian proposal was concerned, M. Cornejo had accepted the suggestions of the Chairman of the Committee on Arbitration and Security M. Beneš, and he accepted also those contained in the Spanish representative's report. He wished to remind the Council that the object of the Peruvian proposal was that no treaties which were the result of an obvious violation of the Paris Pact should be registered by the Secretariat. Its further object was to give definite and precise form to the general provision in Article 10 of the Covenant guaranteeing the territorial integrity of all the Members of the League of Nations, as well as to the provision contained in Article 20 providing that States Members of the League should be prohibited, not only from concluding, but also from maintaining engagements incompatible with the provisions and obligations of the Covenant. He hoped that the next Assembly would adopt a proposal to that effect. To do so would constitute a step forward towards the organisation of peace.

The draft resolution was adopted.

2633. Free City of Danzig Request for an Advisory Opinion from the Permanent Court of International Justice with regard to the Accession of Danzig to the International Labour Organisation.

The PRESIDENT said that the Polish Government had asked him to invite the representative of the Senate of the Free City of Danzig to come to the Council table in order that he might, if necessary furnish additional information in reply to any questions asked by members of the Council. He thought that the Council would wish to avail itself of all possible sources of information and that the presence of the High Commissioner would also be useful.

He therefore invited Dr. Sahm, President of the Senate of the Free City of Danzig, Count Gravina, High Commissioner of the League at Danzig, at the same time as M. Albert Thomas, Director of the International Labour Office, to come to the Council table.

Mr. HENDERSON read the following report and draft resolution: ¹

“ The Secretary-General has communicated to the Council a letter, dated April 26th, 1930, from the Director of the International Labour Office, reading as follows:

“ I have the honour to inform you that, at its forty-eighth session, the Governing Body of the International Labour Office examined a request from the Free City of Danzig that it should be allowed to accede to the International Labour Organisation.

“ At its meeting of April 26th, 1930, the Governing Body found that the request of the Free City of Danzig raised a difficult legal question and it unanimously decided to submit the following question to the Permanent Court of International Justice, under Article 423 of the Treaty of Versailles:

“ “ Is the special legal status of the Free City of Danzig such as to enable the Free City to become a Member of the International Labour Organisation ? ”

“ In notifying you of this decision, I have the honour to request you to lay it before the Council of the League of Nations, with a view to obtaining an advisory opinion from the Permanent Court of International Justice on this question.

“ I may add that certain members of the Governing Body expressed the desire that the request of the Free City of Danzig should be pronounced upon as soon as possible, and I should be grateful if you could see whether it is possible still to place this question on the agenda of the Council's session beginning on May 12th, 1930.’

“ Under the terms of Article 14 of the Covenant, the right to refer questions to the Permanent Court for an advisory opinion is reserved exclusively to the Council and the Assembly. It was, therefore, necessary that the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation should address itself to the Council in order that the Court's advisory opinion might be obtained upon the question referred to in the above-quoted letter. On two previous occasions, the Council has felt it proper to give effect to such a request made to it by the competent organ of the International Labour Organisation. It would, I think, be desirable that the same course should be followed on the present occasion.

“ I have the honour to propose the following resolution:

“ The Council of the League of Nations has the honour to request the Permanent Court of International Justice, in accordance with Article 14 of the Covenant, to give an advisory opinion upon the following question.

“ “ Is the special legal status of the Free City of Danzig such as to enable the Free City to become a Member of the International Labour Organisation ? ”

“ The Council authorises the Secretary-General to submit the present request to the Court, to give all assistance necessary in the examination of the question and, if necessary to take steps to be represented before the Court.

“ The International Labour Office is requested to afford the Court all the assistance which it may require in the consideration of the question hereby submitted.’ ”

The draft resolution was adopted.

Dr. Sahn, Count Gravina and M. Albert Thomas withdrew.

2634. **Convention for the Supervision of the International Trade in Arms and Ammunition and in Implements of War (Geneva, 1925) Proposal by the British Government for summoning a Conference of Signatory States to consider the Best Means of bringing the Convention into Force.**

M. QUIÑONES DE LEÓN said that he had prepared no report, as he wished to ascertain the views of the members of the Council on this matter.

M. GRANDI quite understood the feelings of the representative of Great Britain in regard to the ratification of the Convention of 1925 on the traffic in arms, as well as his desire to expedite the putting into force of that Convention. M. Grandi shared that desire and would have no objection to the British proposal to convene a Conference of the signatory States did he not fear that that Conference would meet with the same difficulty as had already been encountered during the previous discussions which had taken place at Geneva on this question. That difficulty consisted in harmonising the future Convention on the Control of the Private Manufacture and of the Publicity of State Manufacture of Arms with the Convention on the Trade in Arms. The two Conventions were naturally connected, and it was indispensable that their provisions should concord, especially in regard to the number of categories into which material of war was to be classified.

It was for this reason that M. Grandi asked the British representative not to press his proposal for an immediate convening of the Conference, but to wait until the questions left over in regard to the control of private manufacture and the publicity to be given to State manufacture had been settled at future meetings.

¹ Document C.299.1930.I.