

etc.), which, far from contributing any new light, had only increased the confusion and made it very difficult to assess the blame.

The events of August had aroused wide interest throughout the world. After the Paris meeting, which had been given publicity everywhere, he had received numerous letters, Press cuttings and requests for interviews. He would hold those documents at the disposal of the Committee to be appointed, and they might be of use in finding a solution that would prevent any repetition of such occurrences. He was sure that, with the help of the contribution offered by the representative of Iraq and the goodwill of the Powers whose representatives had just spoken, a solution would be found for this highly complicated problem.

*The conclusions of the report were adopted.*

M. DE MADARIAGA desired, since the report had been adopted, to make a proposal as to the five Members of the Council who might be associated with the Rapporteur to form the Committee referred to in the conclusions of the report. He suggested that they should be the representatives of the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Denmark and Mexico.

*The Rapporteur's proposal was adopted.*

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### FIFTH MEETING (PRIVATE)

*Held on Thursday, October 26th, 1933, at noon.*

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*President. M. AMADOR.*

The Members of the Council were represented as follows:

<i>Australia</i>	Mr. OFFICER.
<i>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</i>	Mr. EDEN.
<i>China.</i>	M. Wellington KOO.
<i>Czechoslovakia</i>	M. KÜNZL-JIZERSKY.
<i>Denmark</i>	M. BORBERG.
<i>France</i>	M. MASSIGLI.
<i>Italy</i>	M. BIANCHERI.
<i>Mexico</i>	M. CASTILLO NAJERA.
<i>Panama</i>	M. AMADOR.
<i>Poland</i>	Count RACZYNSKI.
<i>Portugal</i>	M. DE VASCONCELLOS.
<i>Spain</i>	M. DE MADARIAGA.

*Secretary-General M. AVENOL.*

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### 3361. Appointment of the High Commissioner of the League of Nations at Danzig (continuation)

M. Ferber, representative of the Free City of Danzig, came to the Council table.

The PRESIDENT said that, since the Council's last meeting, he had concerned himself with the question of finding suitable candidates for the post of League of Nations High Commissioner at Danzig. He was happy to inform the Council that the matter appeared no longer to present any difficulty. He had learned that Mr. Lester, whose candidature the Council had on a previous occasion welcomed with very warm sympathy, would be prepared to accept an offer of this post from the Council.

The President accordingly thought that, in these circumstances, due consideration had been paid to the views expressed at the Council's last meeting with regard to the choice of a candidate and the qualifications which any candidate must possess to be able to discharge the functions of High Commissioner. The Polish Government had every reason to feel satisfied with this solution, which took into account its point of view and all the interests involved and which, the President was sure, would be greeted with pleasure by all the members of the Council.

Count RACZYŃSKI, on behalf of his Government, had very great pleasure in accepting the solution suggested to the Council. As an Irishman, Mr. Lester could already count on the sympathy of Poland. He had succeeded in winning that sympathy—even more so in his personal capacity—together with the esteem of all the members of the Council, during his recent period of office there.

The Polish Government, as the member of the Council specially interested in Danzig affairs, had already had an opportunity of intimating its point of view as to the proper system for selecting a candidate possessing all the qualifications necessary for discharging the duties of High Commissioner. Count Raczyński could concur in the judicious opinion expressed by the President that the members of the Council had every reason for complete satisfaction.

He took the opportunity to give an assurance, in the name of the Polish Government, that, in carrying out his difficult and delicate duties, Mr. Lester could rely on the friendliest assistance of that Government.

M. FERBER, representative of the Free City of Danzig, reminded the Council that at its last meeting M. Rauschnig had stated that the Danzig Government had felt great satisfaction at Mr. Lester's candidature. M. Ferber could only repeat on the present occasion what M. Rauschnig had then said, but he would like to emphasise the pleasure felt by the Danzig Government at the choice of a candidate who had the approval of both the Polish and the Danzig Governments and could be unanimously nominated by all the members of the Council.

Mr. EDEN was happy to learn that the candidature of Mr. Lester as High Commissioner for Danzig was now universally welcomed. Mr. Lester was so well known to all the members of the Council, both for his work and for his personal qualities, that Mr. Eden was sure the Council would agree with him that no better High Commissioner could be found.

Mr. Eden was glad to be able to take the opportunity of expressing his appreciation of the spirit of conciliation shown by the Polish Government in accepting this nomination, which had been proposed with due regard to the point of view of the Polish Government and of other interests concerned.

M. MASSIGLI had already had an opportunity, at an earlier meeting of the Council, of expressing the high esteem in which his Government, and he himself, held Mr. Lester. He would therefore merely express his satisfaction at the happy agreement which had been reached. The unanimous sympathy felt for the selection of Mr. Lester was a sure guarantee that, in the sometimes delicate tasks which fell to the High Commissioner, the interests of the League of Nations would be fully safeguarded.

As a result of the form taken by the Council's agenda, Danzig affairs very often meant for the Council only the relations between Poland and the Free City. From that point of view already the choice of Mr. Lester could only be welcomed with satisfaction. But it was the Council's interest and its duty to ensure at all times, not only harmonious relations between Danzig and Poland, but also real respect for the Constitution of the Free City. From that standpoint likewise, which was very important in the French Government's judgment, the Council might congratulate itself on the choice made. Mr. Lester was undoubtedly a man who would at all times be able to enforce the counsels of wisdom, if need be, at Danzig, and to recall the principles embodied in the Constitution, of which the Council was the guarantor.

The PRESIDENT presented the following draft resolution<sup>1</sup>

" 1. The Council requests the Secretary-General to convey to M. Helmer Rosting its thanks for the services he has rendered to the League of Nations during his term of office as High Commissioner of the League of Nations at Danzig.

" 2. Mr. Sean Lester is appointed High Commissioner of the League of Nations at Danzig for a period of three years, as from January 15th, 1934. The question whether his term of office should be renewed will be examined by the Council a year before the expiry of the period of three years.

" The Council requests the Secretary-General to authorise M. Rosting to act as High Commissioner until the date on which the new High Commissioner enters upon his duties.

" 3. The annual salary of the High Commissioner will be 72,000 gold francs. Arrangements concerning other expenditure relating to the post of High Commissioner, including the salaries of his office staff, travelling expenses, etc., will be made by the High Commissioner after consultation and in agreement with the Secretary-General.

" 4. The funds appropriated for the maintenance of this post shall, as in the past, be advanced to the High Commissioner by the Treasury of the League of Nations. The High Commissioner shall submit a monthly report to the Treasury on the use made of these funds, which shall, so far as possible, be employed in accordance with the general rules applied by the League in such matters. Advances thus made to the High Commissioner shall be repaid in equal parts by the Governments of Danzig and of Poland, in accordance with the Agreement concluded on that question. The accounts of the High Commissioner shall be audited every six months by the Treasury of the League of Nations."

<sup>1</sup> Document C.592(1).1933.I.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL observed that, at the Council's last meeting, he had mentioned the difficulties which would result from a prolongation of the present position. As M. Rosting was again to exercise the functions of High Commissioner for a very short and limited period, the Secretary-General was very happy to authorise him to do so and thereby assist in the solution proposed by the Council.

*The draft resolution was adopted.*

The PRESIDENT requested the representative of the United Kingdom, now that the Danzig High Commissioner had been appointed, to be good enough to resume his functions as Rapporteur for matters relating to the Free City

Count RACZYNSKI, on behalf of his Government, supported the President's request.

Mr. EDEN said, on behalf of the United Kingdom Government, that it would be very happy to do its best in that task.

M. FERBER, on behalf of the Government of the Free City, thanked the President of the Council, the Secretary-General and the Rapporteur for their untiring efforts to secure the election of a new High Commissioner at Danzig. He ventured to express his special gratitude to the United Kingdom representative for having consented to take up again the functions of Rapporteur.

3362. Close of the Session.

The PRESIDENT declared the seventy-seventh session of the Council closed.

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