

549. Danzig Term of Office of the Senators.

Viscount ISHII read a report (Annex 299), which concluded with the following resolution

“ The High Commissioner of the League of Nations in Danzig is authorised to give his final approval in accordance with Article 103, paragraph 1, of the Treaty of Versailles, to the Constitution of the Free City of Danzig when the draft law concerning the term of the office of the Senators, which was annexed to the letter of November 14th, 1921 from the President of the Senate, shall have been enacted into law as an amendment to the Constitution.”

M. ASKENAZY approved the resolution in the name of the Polish Government, which attached the greatest importance to settling as early as possible the question of the Constitution of Danzig. He said he would present a note to this effect to the Secretary-General.

The resolution was adopted.

550. Danzig The Polish-Danzig Agreement of October 24th, 1921.

Viscount ISHII read a report (Annex 300), which concluded with the following resolution

“ The League of Nations takes note of the Polish-Danzig Agreement of October 24th, 1921, as forwarded to the Secretary-General by the High Commissioner on November 11th, 1921.”

The resolution was adopted.

The PRESIDENT congratulated the parties in the name of the Council on the agreement which had been reached.

551. Danzig Port d'attache for Polish warships.

Viscount ISHII read a report (Annex 301) which, concluded with the following resolution

“ The Council decides to postpone consideration of the question of the Port d'attache for the Polish war vessels in Danzig to a later session. Until the question has been considered by the Council, the preliminary agreement already concluded between the Free City and Poland with the object of providing safety and necessary harbour facilities for Polish war vessels in the Port of Danzig will remain in force.”

M. HANOTAUX asked whether the resolution adopted by the Council, of the League on June 23rd had been communicated to the Board, and what action had been taken on the resolution which directed the Harbour Board to fix, in agreement with the Allocation Commission, a site for the unloading of war material and explosives at Danzig. It had been suggested in this resolution that the Island of Holm might be a suitable site for this purpose.

M. COLBAN, Director of the Administrative Commissions Section of the Secretariat, said that the resolution had been forwarded to the High Commissioner and to the Harbour Board.

M. ASKENAZY accepted the resolution before the Council, but said he wished to make certain reservations.

The note of the High Commissioner referred to in the report dealt with two questions which were entirely distinct, namely, the *Port d'attache* and the site for the unloading of war material.

The Council had asked the opinion of the High Commissioner on the first question only, but in his note he had referred also to the question of the site. The Polish representative was therefore bound to make a general reservation on this point of procedure. He was also bound to make a special reservation on the opinion expressed in the High Commissioner's note as to the giving of a temporary site to Poland. The resolution of the Council of June 23rd implied that this site should be assigned to Poland by the Harbour Board, in agreement with the Allocation Commission. The site should be selected from among former German State property, and should be permanent.

The Government of Danzig had unfortunately shown evidence of a regrettable spirit of animosity in the affair of the *Gauja*, a vessel which had arrived in Danzig carrying explosives for Polish coal-mines. He referred to the note which he had sent to the President of the Council on this subject.

He noted with pleasure that the rapporteur had expressed his "sincere belief that the Government of the Free City of Danzig would do its utmost in order that obstacles might not be placed in the way of the importation through the territory of Danzig of goods of any kind whatever, including material of war and explosives, destined for Poland," and he asked that this declaration should be inserted in the Minutes because, if Poland agreed to the postponement of this question to the next session, she must have the double assurance that until the next session she would have no difficulties as regards warships at Danzig or as regards transports carrying explosives.

M. SAHM remarked that the question on the agenda was that of the *Port d'attache*, but that the representative of Poland had dealt in his speech with the question of transit of war material. On the other hand, at the beginning of his declaration, he had made a special protest against combining the question of the *Port d'attache* with that of a depot for war material, as the High Commissioner had done in his report.

The Free City fully recognised the right of Poland to have war material taken in transit through the territory of Danzig, but in the affair of the *Gauja* to which allusion had been made, the workers had stopped out of regard for their personal safety. The Senate had effectively intervened in order to have the work duly executed.

The PRESIDENT said that the incident was closed.

The resolution moved by Viscount Ishii was adopted.

The PRESIDENT thanked Viscount Ishii for his reports.

M. Sahn, M. Askenazy and General Haking left the Council table.

552. The Albanian Question.

M. BLINISHTI, representing Albania, and M. YOVANOVITCH, representative of the Serb-Croat-Slovene State, took their seats at the Council table.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL summarised his correspondence with the Commission of Enquiry in Albania and presented its reports. (Annexes 302, 302 *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, *e*, *f*.)

M. YOVANOVITCH expressed regret that the Commission of Enquiry should have forwarded to the Secretariat incorrect news from an Albanian source without verifying the facts. The statement that the Serb-Croat-Slovene Government had concentrated on its frontier as many as 80,000 men should have been sufficient warning to the Commission that it was dealing with a false report. He alluded to another false report which had been attributed to the Commission of Enquiry to the effect that 250 Albanian villages had been destroyed. The Secretariat had found it necessary to contradict this report officially. The good name of the Serb-Croat-Slovene State, which was a Member of the League, and the prestige of the League of Nations itself were at stake.

The Serb-Croat-Slovene Government had authorised the Commission to enter its territory as soon as a request to that effect had been made.

M. BLINISHTI said that he was only accredited to the Albanian Secretariat at the seat of the League, and that the Albanian Government had not had time to appoint a representative for this session of the Council since he had only received the invitation on the eve of the meeting. He asked the Council to adjourn the discussion for forty-eight hours in order that he might receive instructions from his Government. He noted the declarations of M. Yovanovitch and would at once forward them to his Government.

The PRESIDENT observed that the question on the agenda did not necessitate the presence of a representative of the Albanian Government. They were dealing only with the instructions to be sent to the Commission of Enquiry.

The four following proposals were submitted to the Council.

(1) In two telegrams, dated January 5th and 7th respectively (see Annexes 302*c* and 302*d*), the Commission asks that the Delimitation Commission proceeding to Albania should be instructed to extend its work to the part of