

the Danzig Police are inefficient, that they have shown themselves unequal to their task when it is a question of defending French sailors, and that there is evidence of an attitude of deliberate hostility to the French uniform and French nationals. The Danzig Government, in reply, has given its observations on the cases mentioned in the French memoranda. It maintains that these explanations prove that the local authorities always try to carry out, as far as possible, the wishes of the French Consul. The Danzig Government concludes by stating that the small number of incidents which have occurred during the numerous visits of foreign fleets proves that the population of Danzig is of a peaceful disposition, and that the authorities, particularly the Police, carry out their duty in a trustworthy manner.

The High Commissioner is of the opinion that, although the Danzig Police have, in the past, been overbearing in their manner towards Danzigers and foreigners alike, effective steps have been taken by the Danzig Government to insist upon polite and correct behaviour on their part, and that a steady improvement has taken place in this matter, no doubt owing to the enquiries set on foot by the French Government. In his opinion, neither the Danzig Security Police nor the inhabitants of the Free City are especially opposed to the French sailors or the French uniform. Incidents similar to those which took place during the visit of the French Naval Division to Danzig have, he says, occurred at the visits of warships of other nations. Disturbances of this nature are always difficult to deal with. The Police cannot be everywhere, and, in his view, they did what was possible to protect the French sailors during the occurrences in question.

From the budget estimates it appears that the total strength of the Security Police is 1,161 officers, officials and policemen, and that of the Administrative Police 420, while the Rural Police number under 50. In addition, there is a Security Police reserve of 1,000 men, doing two days' training a month, and a Civic Guard of 3,000, doing four days' training a year. The estimated total net expenditure within the Free City on the Police forces amounted in the financial year 1921-22 to 44,500,000 German marks, out of a total estimated budget expenditure of slightly over 425,000,000 marks.

The High Commissioner states that he is of opinion that the number of local police is not more than is absolutely required for the security of life and property in the territory of the Free City and he does not think that any radical change in their organisation is necessary.

Furthermore, he is of opinion that Danzig, although in a bad position financially, does better to spend money on an adequate police force than to risk disaster through disturbances caused by the bad economic situation. Moreover, he points out that the Free City includes a territory of some 754 square miles, and contains an alien population consisting of some 36,000 Poles and 17,000 other nationals who require protection. He adds that it should be remembered that, in comparison with Danzig, other sea-ports are administered by much larger States backed up by military forces, and that in such ports the police have mainly to deal with their own nationals. The High Commissioner concludes with the statement that, if his report is accepted and no further action is demanded, he feels sure that the enquiry set on foot by the French Government will have a very good effect and will produce a marked improvement in the action and methods of the local police.

Before making any suggestion as to the action to be taken in the matter, I would like to know whether my French colleague has any observations to make, as the matter has by been brought before us by his Government.

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#### Annex 448.

C. 109 (1). M. 61. 1922. I.

### RESIGNATION OF GENERAL HAKING AS HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE FREE CITY OF DANZIG.

*Report by M. Adatci and Resolution adopted by the Council on January 30th, 1923.*

General Sir Richard Haking, the first permanent High Commissioner of the League of Nations at Danzig after the establishment of the Free City, was originally appointed on December 17th, 1920, to hold office for one year from the date of his departure for Danzig, which took place on January 20th, 1921. On January 13th, 1922, his appointment was renewed for a further period of one year, and would, therefore, normally have expired on January 19th, 1923. The President of the Council has, however, requested him to remain

in office until the Council takes a decision on the question, and he has consented to do so. He has now been appointed General Officer Commanding in Chief of the British Forces in Egypt, and is not in a position to accept any further appointment in Danzig.

Viscount Ishii, in the report which he presented to the Council on January 13th, 1922, pointed out the success achieved by General Haking in bringing about agreement between the Polish and the Danzig Governments on some of the large questions outstanding between them in 1921. The report submitted by the Council to the third Assembly and the several general reports on Danzig questions which have been made to the Council by the Secretary-General, set forth the work which General Haking has accomplished in this field during the past year. Having myself worked with the High Commissioner on a number of occasions on very delicate questions of the greatest importance, I can do nothing more than give expression to my own conviction that General Haking has fulfilled his duties in Danzig in a very practical and, at the same time, in a very impartial manner, and for this I am certain that my colleagues will join me in extending to him, on behalf of the League of Nations, our most cordial appreciation and thanks.

I beg to propose the following resolution for adoption

“(1) General Haking’s term of office as High Commissioner of the League of Nations in Danzig is hereby extended from January 19th, 1923, to the end of the present session of the Council.

“(2) The Secretary-General is requested to convey to General Haking the thanks of the Council for the services which he has rendered to the League of Nations during his period of office.”

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Annex 449.

C. 105. M. 58. 1923. II.

WORK OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE DURING ITS SESSION HELD  
IN JANUARY 1923.

*Report by M. Viviani and Resolutions adopted by the Council on January 30th, 1923.*

The Economic Committee of the League is submitting to the Council a copy of the report which contains the results of its seventh session, held at Geneva in January 1923, (Annex 449a), and in which various resolutions are proposed to the Council.

The most important question on the agenda of the session was that of the International Conference on Customs Formalities, the summoning of which was approved by the Assembly and by the Council in September last<sup>1</sup>. The Committee wished to make it clear that there was no question of discussing and submitting to an international conference the general problem of the customs policy adopted by the various Governments, but merely of determining what simplifications could be introduced into the methods of collecting customs duties and in the regulations governing the application of customs laws.<sup>2</sup> The question is a very wide one and one in which a better understanding among the Governments would very greatly assist international commercial relations, and the Council cannot but approve the Economic Committee’s request that invitations should be sent quickly to the States concerned.

The Committee proposes that invitations should be sent not only to the Members of the League, but also to Germany, the United States, Mexico and Ecuador. This is not the first occasion on which countries which are not Members of the League have taken part in technical conferences, and the Council will understand and approve the Economic Committee’s desire that as many States as possible should be represented at the Conference. Obviously the greater the number of countries which undertake to accept the same regulations, the easier will it be to apply the measures adopted by the Conference and the greater will be the advantages offered for the signatory States.

The Council will also approve the Economic Committee’s desire to render all technical preparations as complete as possible before the Conference is held. For this reason the Economic Committee considered that the Conference should not be held before October of this year. The period January-May 1923 will be devoted by the Committee to the preparation of the documents which will be submitted to the Conference and will form the subject of its discussions. The Economic Committee will hold two sessions for this purpose, one in March and one at the beginning of May. It will consult the necessary experts and will

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Journal*, November 1922 (Part II), page 1396.