

of Holm would be all the more terrible in view of the fact that the centre of the City of Danzig, where the population was most dense, was scarcely two kilometres distant from the island.

Further, the unloading of explosives in the Polish war harbour of Gdynia would present no difficulty, as was proved by the case of the steamship "Kentucky" from which, on June 29th, 1923, 60 tons of gunpowder had been unloaded in about six hours without the least difficulty.

Consequently, he asked the Council of the League to take the following decisions

1. To abrogate the Decision of the High Commissioner dated April 7th, 1922.
2. To lay down that Poland, without prejudice to the transit rights granted to her by Articles 26 and 28 of the Paris Treaty, was not authorised to maintain a depot of explosives in transit on the territory of the Free City
3. To instruct the Danzig Harbour and River Boards to take the necessary measures to assure the transit of war material of all kinds, especially explosives.

He earnestly asked the Council to remove from the Free City which was under the special protection of the League, the danger which threatened it.

M. SKIRMUNT repeated that, as Poland's right to pass war material and explosives through Danzig was incontestable, the question of Gdynia should not be discussed. He pointed out, however, that not a single vessel loaded with explosives had been unloaded at Gdynia. The assertion made by M. Sahn on the question was therefore incorrect. He further explained that the amount of space on the island of Holm granted to Poland for that purpose was very narrow, not more than 180 metres wide, which made it both difficult and dangerous to deal with explosives. Had the whole island been granted to Poland, she would have been able to carry out the constructive works necessary to prevent the terrible consequences of accidents.

He assured the Council that both Danzig and Poland were entirely agreed as to the necessity of safeguarding the security of the inhabitants of Danzig, but the incontestable rights of Poland should not be lost sight of.

*The Council decided to postpone the discussion of this question to a later meeting.*

---

## SIXTH MEETING (PUBLIC)

*Held at Paris on Thursday, December 13th, 1923, at 3.30. p.m.*

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

1122. Free City of Danzig Appointment of the High Commissioner of the League of Nations.

M. Skirmunt, representative of Poland, and M. Sahn, representative of the Free City of Danzig, came to the Council table.

M. QUIÑONES DE LEÓN moved the following resolution

"Mr. M. S. MACDONNELL is reappointed High Commissioner of the League of Nations in Danzig for a further period of one year from February 22nd, 1924. He will, during that period, be entitled to receive a salary at the rate of 80,000 gold francs per annum."

M. SKIRMUNT, representative of Poland, said he entirely agreed with the proposal of the Rapporteur that the term of office of the High Commissioner should be renewed for a period of one year.

As regarded the increase of 20,000 gold francs in salary authorised by the resolution, he felt it his duty to draw the attention of the Council to the very strict economy which had been introduced in the Polish budget. At such a moment, the increase of the salary of the High Commissioner was contrary to the imperative instructions issued by the Polish Government and would not therefore be welcomed by public opinion. He would not raise any objection to the increase, but he would abstain from voting. In any case, he desired to emphasise that this should be regarded as a temporary measure and that it should not in any way constitute a precedent.

M. SAHN, representative of Danzig, said that he had no objections to make.

*The resolution was adopted.*