

questions, the necessary papers be forwarded to the Secretariat so that they may be placed in the hands of the members of the Council three weeks before the beginning of a Council session. If this is not done, I believe it should be understood that, unless there should be urgent reasons to the contrary the Council cannot be expected to deal with the substance of any such questions.

"In the past, delay has resulted from the fact that the reasons for the appeals and subsequent papers have not been sent in by the Governments until some considerable time after the decisions have been given. It would, I am sure, be of great assistance if the reasons for appeal were sent in within the time-limit of forty days allowed for making the appeal."

Mr. MACDONNELL, High Commissioner of the League at Danzig, said, with regard to the delays which had occurred in forwarding papers for the information of the Council, that he had always endeavoured so to arrange matters that the parties should not only have the forty days allowed for making an appeal, but should also have time to forward their reasons for appealing. Before each session of the Council, he consulted both parties as to the subjects which would probably appear on its agenda, and an agreed programme was drawn up for dealing with various questions in dispute. Generally however, it was to the interest of the party against whom the decision had gone to delay a settlement by the Council, in order to gain time to arrive at some arrangement more favourable than the decision, or else to try to maintain the *status quo*.

The differences between the parties were usually of long standing, had formed the subject of prolonged negotiations, and were set out at length in the High Commissioner's decision. Normally, therefore, there could be but few obstacles to preparing a case for submission to the Council within the forty days allowed.

He desired strongly to urge on the Council the adoption of the Rapporteur's suggestion that the grounds for the appeal, as well as the appeal itself, should be presented within a period of forty days from the date of the High Commissioner's decision. By this means, the Council and the Secretariat would be informed of the subjects requiring their attention and the present unsatisfactory state of affairs would be ended.

At the moment, by the simple process of delay the working of the League's machinery could be interrupted and the differences of opinion between the two Governments remain unsettled for indefinite periods. The High Commissioner's own duties would be greatly assisted if such a state of affairs could be remedied.

M. SKIRMUNT, representative of Poland, quite understood the desires of the Rapporteur and the High Commissioner. The questions, however, were difficult and he could not assume the responsibility of giving an undertaking. The Council should remember that the disputes were of a complicated nature and necessitated the collection of a great deal of evidence.

M. SAHM, representative of the Free City approved the proposal of the Rapporteur and the High Commissioner. It was true that the questions were often difficult, but when an appeal was lodged the two parties had already had occasion to undertake a thorough examination of the question, with the result that the period of forty days would appear to be sufficient.

M. QUIÑONES DE LEÓN, Rapporteur, pointed out that the two parties were not requested to give a formal undertaking. They were asked merely to show proof of goodwill in the matter. The observations of M. Skirmunt and M. Sahn would be recorded in the Minutes.

M. SAHM desired to make a twofold request to the Council. It was essential that, during the present session, the Council should authorise the Harbour Board to raise loans. Neither Poland nor the Free City of Danzig was able to furnish the Board with the funds which it required. The independence of the Harbour Board in this matter had already been recognised by the Agreement of September 1st, 1923.

Another question which would have to be discussed without delay was that concerning the expulsion of Danzig nationals from Polish territory. Danzig had no diplomatic representative in Poland who undertook the protection of the Danzig nationals in Poland and it was therefore necessary either that the Free City of Danzig should possess a diplomatic representative at Warsaw or that another Power should be entrusted with defending Danzig interests in Poland.

M. QUIÑONES DE LEÓN pointed out that he had referred in his report to the first question. With regard to the second, the observations of M. Sahn would be noted in the Minutes.

The report submitted by M. Quiñones de León was approved.

1168. Free City of Danzig Protection of the Interests in Poland of Danzig Citizens and Organisations.

M. QUIÑONES DE LEÓN read his report (Annex 611) and submitted the following resolution

"The question whether the League of Nations is or is not competent to deal with the problem entitled 'Protection of the interests in Poland of Danzig citizens and organisations' — cases of Johann Schauer, the West Prussian Life Insurance Company the Bauern Bank and von Ruetzen-Kositzkau — is referred to a Committee of Jurists consisting of the legal advisers to the Spanish and Swedish representatives on the Council. The Committee is requested to report to the Rapporteur not later than May 15th,

1924, so that he may present a further report to the next session of the Council. The Committee will consider the documents relating to these questions which have been received by the Secretariat, or which may be received before April 1st, 1924."

M. SAHM approved of the appointment of a Committee of Jurists. He asked whether that Committee could not also examine the question of the expulsion of Danzig nationals from Poland.

M. SKIRMUNT said that he would be happy to approve the Rapporteur's proposal, but he asked the Council not to submit to the Committee of Jurists the question of the expulsion of Danzig nationals from Poland.

He quoted from the report of M. Quiñones de León the High Commissioner's opinion, which stated that the three cases cited were similar to that of the German colonists in Poland, with regard to which the Permanent Court of International Justice had recently formulated an opinion. M. Skirmunt did not consider that this analogy existed.

M. QUIÑONES DE LEÓN said that M. Skirmunt's observations would be inserted in the Minutes, and asked the Council to approve the resolution which he had presented.

The Council adopted the resolution.

M. Sahn, M. Skirmunt and the High Commissioner withdrew

1169. Reduction of Armaments Limitation of Expenditure on Armaments.

M. BENES read the following report

"At its last session, the Council considered Assembly Resolution No. II, together with the following proposal submitted by its Rapporteur

"The Council, endorsing the Assembly's resolution recommending the Members of the League, subject to certain reservations, not to exceed, during the period necessary for the elaboration and adoption of the general scheme for the reduction of armaments, the total expenditure on military, naval and air armaments provided for in the budget of the present fiscal year

"Decides to instruct the Secretary-General to send the above recommendation to all States Members of the League and to request them to state what action they propose to take with regard to the recommendation."

M. Benes said that he was prepared to accept this resolution, but was not certain whether the reasons which led the British representative and one or two other members of the Council to urge the postponement of the question still held good.

Lord PARMOOR asked the Council to adjourn the question in view of the fact that the British Government had not yet had time to examine it.

M. BRANTING recalled the fact that he had been one of the members of the Council who had requested the adjournment of the question at the last session. Since then, the Swedish Government had put forward proposals for the reduction of military expenditure and in consequence he had no objection to raise with regard to the resolution.

The Council decided to adjourn the question.

1170. Reduction of Armaments Control of the Traffic in Arms and Ammunition.

M. BENES read his report (Annex 612) and submitted the two following resolutions

"1. The Council, at the request of the Temporary Mixed Commission, requests the Secretariat to collect and publish, before the next Assembly all the information which can be obtained from official and public documents regarding the imports and exports of arms and ammunition of States Members of the League of Nations and of non-member States.

"2. The Council, at the suggestion of the Temporary Mixed Commission, requests the Permanent Advisory Commission to draw up, for the express purpose of organising control of the traffic in arms, a list corresponding to the present state of military knowledge

- "(1) Of arms and munitions of war,
- (2) Of other kinds of arms and ammunition."

The two resolutions were adopted.

1171. Reduction of Armaments Resignation of the Chairman of the Temporary Mixed Commission.

M. BENES read the following report

"The Temporary Mixed Commission was informed at its last session of the resignation of its Chairman. It decided that the three Vice-Chairmen should in turn act as Chairman, the Council will, perhaps, agree that no further decision on this point is called for, as the question of the organisation of the Temporary Mixed Commission and the co-ordination of its work with that of the Permanent Advisory Commission is now under consideration. I am sure, however, that the Council will join with me in