

although they had no obligatory force, nevertheless contained extremely valuable indications in view of the high authority of that body.

The Court had noted that it was impossible to limit the rights of the Polish postal service to what might be called the area of the harbour waters. Here he agreed with the observations made by the Polish delegate.

The Court considered that the expression under discussion could refer only to a territorial conception and that, therefore, when the treaties or agreements referred to the port of Danzig and the rights, postal or others, attaching to the port, these expressions could only refer to a territorial district.

The Court based this assertion upon three kinds of arguments:

First, it quoted the current meaning of the word "port" which did not merely define the surface of the water in the port but also the necessary services surrounding the water.

The second argument was based on the idea in accordance with which the port of Danzig had been constituted, an argument which was quite independent of politics. The port had been constituted for purely economic reasons, and had been set up owing to the necessity of enabling Poland to use the harbour. Certain consequences followed from this necessity in regard to the railway and postal services.

The third argument on which the Court based its opinion was to be found in the texts of the Treaty of Paris and the Agreement of Warsaw, in which the expression "*dans le port*" was used ("*im Hafen von Danzig*").

The opinion of the Court, based on these three arguments, emphasised very clearly that the expression "port of Danzig" only referred to a territorial district, and consequently to a district within the town of Danzig.

These considerations appeared to him to be of great importance.

As regards the boundaries of this district the Court had not given any opinion, and had declared that it had not the necessary information enabling it to form any opinion. It was in order to fix these boundaries that an expert enquiry was necessary

M. HYMANS agreed.

M. PAUL-BONCOUR said that, according to the opinion of the Court, a territorial district was necessary in the Free City in order to enable Poland to exercise the rights which she was recognised to possess, and to ensure the working of the services above mentioned. It was in regard to the boundaries of this district that the experts would be able to furnish indispensable information.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council was agreed on the matter. He associated himself completely with the opinion which had been expressed by the French representative.

He would venture to add that these views were those which had guided him in drafting the report.

The resolution proposed by the Rapporteur was adopted, with the modification that a jurist should be added as a fourth expert.

1517. Free City of Danzig Delimitation of the Polish Munitions Depot in the Danzig Harbour.

The PRESIDENT, Rapporteur, said that the Council at its first meeting had asked him to examine this question, which the High Commissioner had suggested by telegram should be placed on the agenda, and to decide whether it was possible for the Council to deal with it during the present session. He had received the documents late, and one of the parties had informed him that it was not ready to discuss the question.

In these circumstances, he did not think it was possible for the Council to deal with it at that moment, and the question must take its natural course according to the ordinary procedure.

Agreed.

M. Strasburger, M. Sahn and Mr. MacDonnell withdrew.

1518. Work of the Financial Committee during its Eighteenth Session.

M. HYMANS, Rapporteur, read the following report and resolutions

"The Council has been informed of the work of the Financial Committee in connection with the financial reconstruction of Austria and Hungary by the special committees dealing with these questions.

"The Financial Committee's agenda included two problems in connection with Danzig (see Report of Financial Committee, Annex 774). The first concerns the municipal loan which has been successfully issued since the Council's last session. The Committee recommends the Council to accept the arbitration duties provided for in certain clauses of the General Bond between the lenders and the banks; the Council will doubtless agree to accept these duties.

"The second problem concerns the external obligations of the Free City of Danzig to the Conference of Ambassadors. The Council will observe that two of these obligations can probably