

ELEVENTH MEETING (PUBLIC)

Held on Saturday, December 12th, 1925, at 11.30 a.m.

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

1633. Free City of Danzig: High Commissioner of the League: Expiration of Mr. MacDonnell's Mandate.

Mr. MacDonnell came to the Council table.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council desired, now that Mr. MacDonnell was giving up his duties as High Commissioner of Danzig, which he had fulfilled for three years with such honour and dignity, to give public expression to its gratitude for the services which he had rendered the League in the accomplishment of a task bristling with difficulties, which he had always succeeded in overcoming.

The Council appreciated the work of the High Commissioner, not only because of its difficulty but because his services had enabled a situation disturbing in itself to be considerably improved.

Mr. MACDONNELL thanked the President for his kind words and asked to be allowed to express his gratitude for all the sympathy and consideration which had been shown to him during the three years of his appointment. He would like, in particular, to express his thanks to the representative of Spain for the unfailing patience and good humour with which he had dealt with the various questions that had come before the Council. He also desired to extend his thanks to the Secretary-General and towards those members of the Secretariat, particularly M. Colban, with whom he had been brought in touch and who had helped him so tremendously and conscientiously during the period of his High Commissionership in Danzig. He hoped, in conclusion, that the Council would call upon him at any time if his services could be of use to it or to the League of Nations.

Mr. MacDonnell withdrew.

1634. Arbitration, Security and Reduction of Armaments.

(a) REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL.

I. *Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference.*

M. BENES read the following report and resolution:

The Council has before it the report of our eminent colleague M. Paul-Boncour on the work of the Committee of the Council concerning the organ for the work of disarmament. As the report states, the mandate which the Committee received from the Council was to consider the observations made during the sixth Assembly on the constitution and working of the Co-ordination Commission and to submit definite proposals to the Council on this subject.

I am sure that I am expressing your feelings in thanking our Committee for its admirable work, resulting in the submission to us of proposals which will make it possible to organise on a sure and practical basis the important work which is to culminate in the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments. These proposals are very skilfully designed to meet the requirement that the higher political direction and co-ordination of the preliminary work should be concentrated in the hands of accredited representatives of the Governments. In view of the very diverse features which the problem presents in different parts of the world and in order to meet the wishes of the Assembly, the scheme rightly provides for the extension of the leading organisation by adding to the representatives of States Members of the Council a certain number of representatives of other States which are in a special situation in regard to this problem. It also provides means of enabling States not directly represented to make their views heard, and it empowers this Commission of Government representatives to obtain the opinions of experts specially qualified to advise on particular questions. Another advantage offered by the scheme submitted to us is that it creates a well-defined, yet elastic, system of co-operation in the work of disarmament with the technical organisations of the League. For this purpose, the Commission of Government representatives described above would be assisted by the Permanent Advisory Commission in respect of questions relating to the military, naval or air aspects of the questions, and by a Joint Commission, composed of members of the various technical organisations of the League and Labour Office, in respect of the economic aspects of the problem of disarmament.

It is provided that this Joint Commission may call in other experts, under the same conditions as those laid down in Article 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Advisory Commission. The Council will, no doubt, agree with me that the Joint Commission and the