

a decision if there were a divergence of opinion between Poland and Danzig in regard to an agreement which had been concluded.

M. PLUCINSKI replied in the affirmative.

Viscount ISHII said that, in his report of 1920, he had emphasised the view that the Treaty of Versailles was the legal source of the Treaty of November 9th, and of any further agreements, but, once the Treaty of November 9th had been concluded, it became the authority to which reference must be made when there was a doubt as to interpretation.

The Council thanked the High Commissioner and the representatives of Poland and Danzig for their explanations and asked the Rapporteur to present his conclusions at a later meeting.

987. Free City of Danzig. Financial Situation.

M. QUIÑONES DE LEON read a report (Annex 532) and submitted the following resolutions

“ (1) The Council takes note of the report presented by the Financial Committee regarding the financial situation of the Free City of Danzig.

“ (2) As regards the action which, in paragraph 2 of its report, the Committee recommends,

“ The Council has just been made acquainted with the letter of June 27th from the Conference of Ambassadors, stating that a questionnaire would shortly be drawn up and forwarded to the Secretariat of the League of Nations, with a view to obtaining exact information regarding the financial situation of Danzig.

“ The Council requests the Secretariat to send at once to the Conference of Ambassadors any information which might throw light on the question.

“ It hopes that, in view of the urgency of the question, the Conference will consider whether it cannot take a decision on the receipt of this information it trusts that the Conference of Ambassadors will be willing, so far as it is concerned, not to put any obstacle in the way of the issue of the loan which the Free City of Danzig proposes to raise, so that the assets necessary for securing the loan may be entirely released.

“ (3) The Council thanks the Reparation Commission for the sympathetic attitude revealed in its letter of May 18, 1923.

“ (4) Finally, the Council requests the Financial Committee to keep it informed of any schemes for currency reform which may be submitted to it.”

LORD ROBERT CECIL asked whether it would not be well to mention in the resolutions that the question had already been examined by the Financial Committee of the League. He feared that much time would be lost if the Conference of Ambassadors, before taking action, awaited the detailed reply to the questionnaire which it proposed to forward to the Secretariat.

It was decided that the report of the Financial Committee should be forwarded to the Conference of Ambassadors with the report of M. Quiñones de León.

The resolutions were adopted.

SEVENTH MEETING (PUBLIC)

held at Geneva on Thursday, July 5th, 1923, at 10 a.m.

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

988. The Question of Slavery

M. BRANTING read the following report and resolution

My colleagues will remember that, in pursuance of a request made by the third Assembly the Council of the League of Nations decided, at a meeting held on September 26th, 1922, to present a report to the Fourth Assembly on the question of slavery. The Council accordingly instructed the Secretariat to study the question and, in particular, to request the Governments of the Members of the League to supply the Council with any information on the existing situation which they possessed and which they might see fit to communicate to it.

Various memoranda have been received in reply to the letters sent for this purpose by the Secretary-General, dated October 9th, 1922, and May 5th, 1923. These memoranda were communicated to the Council on June 20th, 1923.

As was to be expected, the majority of the replies from European States contain no very definite information with regard to slavery, which is totally alien to the habits of their peoples. However, interesting information will be found in the replies from several colonial governments, and especially in the very comprehensive report with full references forwarded by the French Government. I am happy to pay my tribute to the remarkable preparation of this report.

As the information which has so far been collected is not such as to render possible the preparation at the present moment of a sufficiently complete report, but as, on the other hand, the Council no doubt desires to comply, in as large a measure as is possible with the available