LEAGUE OF NATIONS

FIFTY FIRST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

Minutes of a Secret Meeting of the Council held at 3.30 p.m. on September 3rd, 1928

President: M. Procopé

All the representatives of the members of the Council and the Secretary-General were present.

CONSTRUCTION OF AN ASSEMBLY HALL, A NEW BUILDING FOR THE SECRETARIAT, AND A LIBRARY.

M. ADATCI, Rapporteur, said that he had prepared a report, but that subsequently new facts had arisen for consideration. He believed that the Secretary-General had a communication to make to the members of the Council on the subject.

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that the Council would remember that he had undertaken to interview Mrs. Barton in order to discuss with her certain points which had arisen in respect of her property. He had embodied the results of that conversation in a letter addressed to the Chairman of the Committee of Five. He would propose, with the approval of the Council, to forward on behalf of the Council that letter to the Chairman of the Committee of Five as an answer to the inquiry made by the Committee as to the position of Mrs. Barton. He presumed that the Council would not wish to deal further with the question until the Committee of Five had reconsidered it in the light of the proposal of Mrs. Barton to which he had alluded in his letter.

M. ADATCI supported the proposal of the Secretary-General. He would convene the Committee of Five and invite

them to reconsider the question.

M. SCIALOJA, as Chairman of a Committee which had been concerned with the question, represented that the general scheme for the construction of an Assembly Hall, a new building for the Secretariat and a library was not, in the circumstances, practical. It would involve the construction of the library on a strip of land adjoining the Route de Lausanne which was not at all suitable for the purpose. If the property now at the disposal of the League was inadequate for the construction of all three buildings, he would suggest that the site should be utilised for the construction of the library and the Assembly hall, and that the Secretariat should remain in its present quarters. This scheme would be less costly, and would probably not be less convenient or agreable to the members of the Secretariat. The Assembly building, moreover, was bound to be more successful artistically if it were no longer necessary to provide in the new building for the accommodation both of the Secretariat and of the Assembly. These two purposes were very difficult to reconcile, and were, in effect, virtually incompatible. The property which Mrs. Barton, according to her latest proposal, was willing to surrender to the League was not adequate for the library. It would, therefore, be impossible to carry out the original scheme in toto. The alternative proposal which he had just put forward could, on the other hand, be at once carried out, and would involve the League in no further expense. Any other plan could only, in the circumstances, be a provisional solution of the entire problem. He would ask the Council to agree that his proposal should be submitted to the Committee

of Five.

The PRESIDENT proposed that, in accordance with the suggestion of the Secretary-General, the Committee of Five should be asked to reconsider the scheme, and that, pending this reconsideration, the question should be removed from the agenda of the Council.

Lord CUSHENDUN reminded the Council that the British representative on the Committee of Five was unfortunately ill and was unable to be present in Geneva. He thought it was important that the British representative should attend in person He agreed with the proposal submitted by M. Scialoja.

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that Sir E. Hilton Young, the British representative on the Committee of Five, had been appointed as an expert and not as a British delegate. He did not think there was any objection to an expert appointing a substitute to take his place. He would remind Lord Cushendun that the Committee had held a large number of meetings during the absence of Sir E. Hilton Young. ~~and that the proposals before the Council had, in effect, been put forward by the four other members of the Committee.~~

There were certain observations and proposals submitted by M. Scialoja with which he could not concur. He was sure that, if M. Scialoja & Ld. Cushendun were more familiar with the ~~conditions~~ necessities under which the staff of the Secretariat ~~at present worked~~ present, future of, they would have hesitated to propose that they should be left for an indefinite period in their present quarters. The whole subject required very careful consideration, and, pending a further report from the Committee of Five, he would reserve his own opinion in regard to the matter.

The Council decided that the letter of the Secretary-General to the Chairman of the Committee of Five, together with the minutes of the present meeting, should be forwarded to the Committee of Five for its consideration and report.

NOMINATION OF A PRESIDENT OF THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC STATISTICS ~~(Doc. C.452.1928.II).~~

M. von SCHUBERT read his report (Doc. C.452.1928. II).

The report was adopted.

APPOINTMENT OF M. J.A. NEDERBRAGT (Netherlands) AS CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE.

M. von SCHUBERT read his report (Doc. C.453.1928.II)

The report was adopted.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.

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Confidential: Conseil Secret.

NOTE BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL:

For the purposes of record, the Vote this morning, which of course must be considered as absolutely confidential, was recorded as follows on the question of placing on the Agenda the item, Nomination of the High Commissioner of Danzig.

Yeas: Germany
Chile
Cuba
Venezuela
Japan
Italy
Persia
Finland

Noes: France,
Roumania
Poland
Great Britain
Canada
Spain

The question was, therefore, placed on the Agenda of the present session.

P.D.

15th September, 1928.

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