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SECRET

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

SIXTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

MINUTE

of the

SECRET MEETING

ACTION COPY
RECEIVED IN
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22 MAI 1931

held in the Secretary-General's room on May 19th, 1931, at
7 p.m.

PRESIDENT: M. CURTIUS

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

APPOINTMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
GENERAL DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.

On the proposal of M. LERROUX, Rapporteur, the
Council unanimously agreed to request Mr. Henderson to
accept the presidency of the General Disarmament Conference.

Mr. HENDERSON said that the degree of unanimity
which characterised the Council's invitation made it
difficult for him to refuse. The duties of the President
of the Conference would, however, be extremely exacting.
It would have been easier for him to give an immediate
answer had the seat of the Conference already been
determined at a place which was convenient to reach from
London. In saying this he had no intention of suggesting
that he wanted the Conference to be held in London. Indeed,
that might be materially impossible to the British
Government, which would be fully occupied with the Indian
Round Table Conference until at least the end of the current
year, and perhaps even longer. He would, therefore, request



the Council to allow him a few hours before giving a definite reply so that he might consult the British Prime Minister, who would, no doubt, ask the Cabinet the following morning whether arrangements could be made to enable Mr. Henderson to accept the Council's offer.

The PRESIDENT noted that the Council agreed to Mr. Henderson's request for a few hours' delay, and expressed its unanimous satisfaction at his acceptance in principle of the presidency of the Conference. He proposed accordingly to postpone to a public meeting a few days later the decision as to the seat of the Conference.

The Council rose.