

The figures relating to
Contributions should be checked
by the Treasurer. Done -

12.12.32



Capt Dennis

Phun parh
Request to help

When Mr. Hambro
next comes perhaps
you will show him
the correction in figures
as the Precious Writter
did not I think
get them down correct
they have been checked
by the Treasurer.

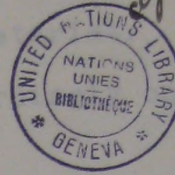
LEAGUE OF NATIONS

69th SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

MINUTES

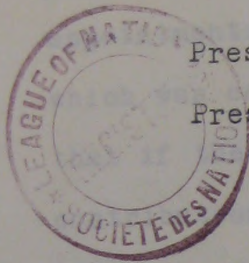
of the

5th - ~~FIRST~~ SECRET MEETING



Approved
12.12.32
J.S.

held on Friday, December 9th, 1932 at 4 p.m.



President: Mr. Sean LESTER.

Present: All the representatives of the Members of the Council and the Secretary-General. Norway was represented by M. Hambro.

PROLONGATION OF M. AVENOL'S TERM OF OFFICE AS DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL UNTIL JUNE 30th, 1933.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL explained that the Assembly having approved the appointment of M. Avenol as his successor, he was seeking the Council's formal approval for the prolongation until June 30th, 1933 of M. Avenol's contract as Deputy Secretary-General which would expire at the end of the current year.

The Council approved the prolongation of M. Avenol's contract.

APPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENTS OF M. TRENDELENBURG AND M. PILOTTI AS UNDER-SECRETARIES-GENERAL.

The Secretary-General observed that normally this item should be taken at a private meeting. It would however save time if the Council could give its approval of the appointments at the present meeting, as this would make it possible for M. Trendelenburg and M. Pilotti to make the statutory declaration of allegiance to the League at the public meeting of the Council that afternoon.



He added that M. Pilotti's services would be at the disposal of his Government until December 15th, when he would take up his duties in the Secretariat. His declaration of allegiance would accordingly only take effect from that date.

M. HAMBRO expressed his satisfaction at these appointments but desired to call attention to the fact, which was causing the Supervisory Commission much anxiety, that if the Members of the League failed to send in their contributions, there would be great difficulty in paying the salaries of these two gentlemen. Of the Members of the League only ~~51~~²³ had paid the whole ~~or part~~ of their contributions for 1932, 19 had paid only part and 13 nothing at all. Even if the expectations of the Treasury were fulfilled, there would be, notwithstanding the remarkable exertions of the Secretary-General and the whole

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taking the three organizations of the League together

staff to make economies, a deficit of ~~about~~^{possibly} 1,000,000 francs in the current year. The capital working fund was nearly exhausted and the League would be in great difficulty when it came to paying the salaries of the higher staff in the first 2 or 3 months of next year. The Supervisory Commission had sent a letter to the Secretary-General asking him to call the Council's attention to the position.

The PRESIDENT was sure that every member of the Council would do his best by drawing his Government's attention to the situation and so trying to overcome the financial stringency.

M. de MADARIAGA, while cordially approving the appointments in question, thought that it would be more becoming that M. Pilotti should, if possible, postpone making his declaration of allegiance until he was completely free to place his services



M. HAMBRO agreed.

the appointments
 The Council decided to approve M. Trendelenburg *Dr. J. M. Pilotti*
~~appointment so that he could make the declaration of~~
The former
 allegiance at the public meeting that afternoon, ~~and~~
~~endorsed M. de Madariaga's suggestion regarding M. Pilotti,~~
~~who would be able to make~~
~~who will make~~ the declaration at the Council's session in
 January 1932.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL.

The PRESIDENT speaking as representative of the Irish Free State thought it would be better if this item could be entirely postponed for the moment. He would be glad to know the views of his colleagues.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that the reason why he had raised this question - and he would be glad to have the Council's unofficial approval for an appointment - was that numerous candidates had been put forward and the position was detrimental to the work of the Secretariat and even of the League. It was invidious for him to have to say no to a candidate or that his name was under consideration. He would therefore beg the Council to help him bring this state of uncertainty to an end. While he did not like to go against the wishes of the President, he felt that the grounds on which he was requesting to be allowed to put forward a name or names were ~~perfectly~~ *really* sound and would facilitate the task of the new Secretary-General just appointed.

M. HAMBRO did not quite appreciate the distinction between unofficial approval by the Council and definite nomination. While he could agree to a definite appointment he did not see the use of the former course which would, he thought, only create a worse atmosphere. This was a new post open to nationals of all States Members, which might desire to put up candidates.

He could of course understand that if many names were put forward it would be difficult to obtain unanimity. If that was so, might it not be wiser to wait until the position had cleared up?

The PRESIDENT said that he would leave the decision in the hands of his colleagues.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL in reply to M. Hambro said that it was not his practice in any particular case to seek the Council's approval until an appointment had actually been made. The post under consideration would not fall vacant, or would not be created, until June, which meant a long delay. His idea had been to obtain unofficial approval for an appointment because that would settle the matter once and for all. It would have the effect of a formal decision outside the Secretariat. He was a little alarmed at M. Hambro's suggestion that unanimity might be difficult to secure, because it seemed to imply that the result might be that the Secretary-General might be presented with a candidature as an ultimatum. That would be contrary to the established practice, and the Secretary-General therefore felt sure that such could not be M. Hambro's idea.

M. HAMBRO replied that he had had no intention of hinting at any such situation. As, however, the Secretary-General himself had said, many names had been mentioned, especially in the newspapers. M. Hambro had been referring to the unanimity of public opinion. No one wished to force the Secretary-General's hands, least of all those who had fought for his freedom — and the widest possible freedom.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL asked how long the President wished the question to be adjourned.

The PRESIDENT pointed out that as the post was not to be created till next year it did not seem essential to fix a date. He reminded the Secretary-General that he himself had previously mentioned the May session and Mr. Lester had therefore been surprised that the matter had been brought forward at the present session, Unless the Secretary-General really insisted on his reasons, the President did not see the need for a time limit.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL thought there would be no objection to leaving the question open a little longer. If however his difficulties increased, he would have to come back to the Council and say that they were becoming intolerable. In the meantime he would merely ask - though without suggesting that such was at the present the case - that he might not be subjected to pressure from any Government whatever.

The PRESIDENT replied that so far ^{as} one Government was concerned he could give the Secretary-General the assurance he desired. He hoped however that in considering the matter the Secretary-General would bear in mind the views of the States Members and not only the needs of the service and personal considerations.

The Council decided to adjourn the question.

In reply to a question by M. Hambro, the SECRETARY-GENERAL said that he would prepare ^a ~~communiqués~~ for the press ^{to the effect that} ~~stating~~ that the substance of the questions had not been discussed and that it had been postponed.

Agreed.

MINUTES OF THE SECRET MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

M. HAMBRO suggested that in order to give the minutes of the Council's secret meetings their full value as a historical record it was essential that speakers should have access to them in order to verify the accuracy of the summaries of their statements.

After an exchange of views it was agreed that the minutes of secret meetings being kept in one copy only, Members of the Council desiring to consult them for the foregoing or any other purpose should apply to the Head of the Documents Service. *If any amendments were proposed they would be announced to the Sec. General, who himself examined the minutes in the first place. The Registry would continue to have the responsibility for the safe-keeping of these documents.*

