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XV

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Secret and Confidential.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL.



Minutes
of the

SECOND (SECRET) MEETING

held on Monday, October 16th, 1933, at 5 p.m.

1933 →
R. B. 32

President: M. AMADOR.

The Members of the Council were represented as follows:

- Australia..... Mr. Bruce
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland..... Sir John Simon, later Mr. Carr
- China..... M. Wellington Koo
- Czechoslovakia..... M. Künzl-Jizasky
- Denmark..... M. de Scavenius
- France..... M. Paul-Boncour, later M. Massigli
- Italy..... M. Biancheri
- Mexico..... M. Castillo Najera
- Panama..... M. Amador
- Poland..... M. Beck, later Count Raczynski
- Portugal..... M. de Vasconcellos
- Spain..... M. de Madariaga
- The Secretary-General: M. Avenol.



APPOINTMENT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AT DANZIG.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL observed that at its meeting which had just closed the General Commission, had decided to adjourn until October 26th. It had occurred to him that advantage might be taken of this adjournment to obviate the difficulties existing at the



Council's last meeting when it had been expected that the Council would not meet again until January 1934.

In these circumstances he ventured to propose the following draft resolution:

"The Council adjourns until Thursday, the 26th of October 1933, its decision on the appointment of a High Commissioner of the League of Nations at Danzig."

Sir John SIMON thanked the Secretary-General for his suggestion, but before voting on it wished to put a question to him in order to be sure that all his colleagues understood the proposal in the way in which Sir John Simon himself understood it. He was speaking not as Rapporteur for this question - for he had ceased to act in that capacity - but on the same footing as any other Member of the Council. Would the Secretary-General inform the Council whether M. Rosting had definitely ceased to discharge the functions of High Commissioner as from October 15th, and, if that was the case, did the Secretary-General's proposal - which, from a spirit of conciliation, Sir John Simon did not wish to oppose - mean that there would be no one discharging the functions of High Commissioner in the interval between the present date and October 26th?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL replied that M. Rosting's functions as High Commissioner had terminated on October 15th and his proposal therefore assumed that the post would be vacant until October 26th. That involved certain drawbacks, but the delay did not differ from any delay which might arise from other causes, for instance, the sickness or death of the High Commissioner.



Sir John SIMON thanked the Secretary-General for his explanation. He had only put his question because he had thought it necessary that all his colleagues should appreciate the implications of the proposal before them. He expressed the hope that the next ten days would pass without incident, and he was sure that everyone concerned would make an effort to see that no incidents occurred. Therefore, while he concurred in the proposal, he ventured to say that from October 26th he would not be prepared to agree to any further continuation of the interval.

M. de MADARIAGA asked the Secretary-General whether there was not in the High Commissioner's office at Danzig some senior official who, without being given the title of acting High Commissioner, could discharge the functions temporarily.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL replied that the High Commissioner had a small staff at his disposal, but he did not think that anyone could be found in the staff to assume even temporarily the responsibilities incumbent on the High Commissioner.

The proposal of the Secretary-General was adopted.

NOMINATION OF A DIRECTOR OF THE INFORMATION SECTION.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL reminded the Council that at its last private meeting he had said that he would shortly be in a position to propose the name of a candidate for the directorship of the Information Section. This

post had been vacant for the last ten months, the reason being the necessity for proceeding to the reorganisation of the Information Section in accordance with the Assembly's decisions. The time had now come for a nomination to be made. Examination of the candidates among whom the new director might be chosen had shown that the Secretary-General's choice was affected by the rule adopted by the Assembly last year regarding the number of directors who might belong to any given nationality.

The Secretary-General therefore desired to propose the name of M. Pelt, a member of the Information Section, of Dutch nationality.

M. WELLINGTON KOO said that from his personal association with M. Pelt when the latter had been secretary of the Commission of Enquiry in Manchuria, he knew something of M. Pelt's abilities and tact. M. Pelt had handled every matter entrusted to him with distinction and prudence. M. Wellington Koo therefore warmly approved this nomination.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that with the Council's consent he would nominate M. Pelt as Director as from whatever date appeared most appropriate, and he would formally submit the nomination to the Council in January.

The proposal of the Secretary-General was approved.

APPOINTMENT OF HIGH COMMISSIONER OF REFUGEES FROM GERMANY.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL hoped that at the meeting on October 26th he would be able to present to the Council or its Committee a definite candidature for the post of High Commissioner of Refugees from Germany.

The Council rose.