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LEAGUE OF NATIONS

**AMENDMENT OF THE COVENANT
OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS IN ORDER TO BRING
IT INTO HARMONY WITH THE PACT OF PARIS**

OBSERVATIONS SUBMITTED BY GOVERNMENTS

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	Page		Page
Hungary	1	Irish Free State.	2

Hungary.

LETTER OF AUGUST 4TH, 1931.

Having acceded to the Pact of Paris, Hungary considers that it is desirable that the Covenant of the League of Nations should be amended so as to establish complete harmony between its provisions and those of the Pact of Paris.

The Royal Hungarian Government greatly regrets to find that the texts contained in the report of the Assembly's First Committee restrict the revision of the Covenant to changes which appear to have a more restricted scope than the original proposals of the Committee of Eleven which the Council appointed under the Assembly's resolution of September 24th, 1929.

The Hungarian Government considers that, to secure complete elimination of war as an instrument of national policy, it is not sufficient to confine oneself entirely to amending those provisions of the Covenant which deal with the employment of international measures of a repressive nature; it would be necessary at the same time to extend, and define more clearly, the field of application of measures having rather a preventive character, which by their very nature may be considered as more effective for the maintenance of international peace than the first-mentioned measures. On this view, the adaptation of the clauses of the Covenant of the League of Nations to those of the Pact of Paris ought to deal with all those provisions of the first of these instruments which, as at present drafted, do not appear fully to favour political initiatives for the maintenance of international peace.

In this class falls the institution, in connection with paragraph 4 of Article 13 of the Covenant, of absolute guarantees to ensure the execution of the decisions given in arbitral or judicial proceedings. Such a guarantee does not seem to be achieved either by the proposals of the Committee of Eleven or by those contained in the report of the Assembly's First Committee. In the opinion of the Hungarian Government, it would be necessary with this object to carry further the amendments to be made in the Covenant in the sense that, in the cases envisaged, the Council should be capable of taking decisions by a simple majority and be thus able to fulfil its task, which is that of giving effect, absolutely and without any revision, to all the provisions of a decision given by an international judicial or arbitral authority.

The Royal Hungarian Government also feels that the conception of preventing conflicts absolutely demands for its realisation that the possibility contained in Article 19 of the Covenant of the League of Nations should not continue to be purely theoretical under the existing text.

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Finally, the Hungarian Government cannot omit to emphasise the necessity for amending the articles of the Covenant of the League of Nations in such a way as to secure the maximum participation, in the solution of questions of a legal character, of the international judicial authorities which are called upon to collaborate with the League of Nations.

Irish Free State.

LETTER OF JULY 30TH, 1931.

With reference to the Acting Secretary-General's letter (Circular Letter 304.1930.V) of November 20th, 1930, the Irish Government have the honour to state that they have no objection in principle to the amendments of the Covenant proposed by the Sub-Committee of the First Committee of the eleventh Assembly, and they consider that, in all the circumstances, those amendments provide the most suitable means of incorporating in the Covenant the general prohibition of resort to war and the principle that the settlement of international disputes should never be sought except by pacific means.

While they are thus prepared to accept the amendments referred to in their present form, the Irish Government feel that there are certain respects in which the proposed texts might be improved from a drafting point of view. Thus, the formula in Article 12 (1), "likely to lead to a rupture", implying as it does a restriction of the general principle of pacific settlement to which it is sought to give effect in the proposed amendments, should, in the opinion of the Irish Government, be eliminated from the text of that article and, consequentially, from the text of Article 15 (1). The Irish Government also feel that some additional words are required in order to make clear the scope of this latter article, and for this reason they propose that Article 15 should open as follows: "If there should arise between Members of the League any dispute which cannot be otherwise settled and which is not submitted to arbitration or judicial settlement in accordance with Article 13, the Members . . ."

The Irish Government assume that an opportunity of discussing this, and such other changes in the proposed texts as may be suggested, will occur during the forthcoming Assembly.
