

Official No.: **Conf. D. 110.**

Geneva, April 12th, 1932.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS**Conference for the Reduction and Limitation
of Armaments****MEMORANDUM ON THE PROPOSALS OF THE SWEDISH DELEGATION
(Conf. D. 83)**

Following the suggestions made on March 16th last by the President of the Conference for the Limitation and Reduction of Armaments, the Swedish delegation has drawn up explanations of certain of the proposals submitted by it to the Conference on February 19th last. These explanations are reproduced below in the same order as the various points enumerated in the Swedish proposal distributed to the Conference as document Conf.D.83.

Point 2 (a). Throughout the preparatory work for the Disarmament Conference, the Swedish Government constantly upheld the thesis that the limitation of effectives should be such as to apply also to trained reserves. The Swedish delegation remains faithful to this principle; for it is convinced that trained reserves are too essential an element of armaments to be left outside the scope of an effective disarmament convention.

With regard to the means of effecting such a limitation of trained reserves, the delegation has considered in the first place the idea of a quantitative limitation of personnel undergoing military training in time of peace—i.e., *a limitation of the annual contingent*. This would of course have the effect of limiting trained reserves.

The delegation has also studied another method which seems likely to be of considerable value. This method is based on the idea that, if the period of service of part of the annual contingent is limited, there will be in consequence a reduction in the number of men who can be drafted immediately, on the outbreak of war, into the units assigned to aggressive operations. It would seem that such a limitation could readily take its place among the principles on which the first part of the Draft Convention is based. For instance, a separate column in Table I of Chapter A might lay down maximum figures for the average daily effectives of men undergoing training for more than six months. The number of conscripts undergoing training for longer periods should consequently not exceed the figure shown in that column for each country.

On the same lines, this principle, if accepted by the Conference, should perhaps also be expressed by the insertion of a supplementary provision in Chapter B of the Draft Convention ("period of service").

Point 2 (b). In the opinion of the Swedish delegation, no effective limitation or reduction of land material can be secured without the application of the direct method supplemented by the budgetary method. Accordingly, the delegation proposes that Article 10 of the Draft Convention should be supplemented by clauses providing for the direct limitation of certain main categories of arms, such as (a) rifles and carbines; (b) automatic rifles and machine-guns; (c) guns and howitzers; (d) mortars and mine-throwers. The delegation does not for the moment wish to submit detailed proposals in this connection, but it requests the Conference to consider the explanations given above and the annex attached as suggestions for its future deliberations.

Point 2 (c). The delegation is happy to note that a considerable number of delegations have proposed the complete abolition of tanks and mobile heavy artillery. With regard to this latter class of armament, the delegation is inclined to advocate a limit of 16 cm. for the calibre and 4 tons for the weight of guns and howitzers, except those which form part of the fixed armament of fortifications.

Point 4. The delegation notes with satisfaction that the National Defence Expenditure Commission has already placed on its agenda the study of the budgetary method with a view to its application in case of fluctuations in the purchasing power of currencies. It trusts that this study will be continued until definite results have been secured.

Like several other delegations, the Swedish delegation has proposed the complete abolition of military aviation. Pending the Conference's final decision on this point, the Swedish delegation proposes that the investigations undertaken by the Conference in connection with the budgetary method should be pursued on such lines as to include the application of that method to air force material. The aim of such an investigation should be a limitation of air armaments on the same lines as the limitation of land and naval armaments proposed in the report of the Committee of Experts on Budgetary Questions. In the delegation's view, this limitation should also cover every expenditure, subsidy or loan included in the budget and intended for the purchase and upkeep of civil aviation material, the parties having the option of making certain exceptions specified and justified in a special table.

Stockholm, April 6th, 1932.

ANNEX TO POINT 2 (b) ABOVE.

Article 10 (a).

The High Contracting Parties likewise undertake not to keep or maintain nor to manufacture or purchase weapons of war of the categories specified in the annexed table in greater numbers than those fixed in the said table for the various High Contracting Parties.

Existing stocks of weapons referred to in this article in excess of the number fixed in the table shall be destroyed within a period of x months after the putting into force of the present Convention.

Article 10 (b).

The High Contracting Parties undertake not to keep or maintain nor to manufacture or purchase the following war material, which shall be generally and without restriction prohibited :

(a) Guns and howitzers which are of greater calibre or weight in battery, including platform and carriage, than those specified in column (d) of the table annexed to Article 10 (a) and which are not exclusively and permanently employed (in a fixed manner, in turrets, on fixed carriages, etc.) for the defence of fortified works.

(b) Mortars and mine-throwers of every kind constructed to throw projectiles more than 50 kg. in weight.

(c) Tanks of every kind.

Existing stocks of the war materials referred to in this article shall be destroyed within a period of x months after the putting into force of the present Convention.

TABLE TO ARTICLE 10 (a).

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
High Contracting Parties	Rifles and carbines (musketoons), in thousands.	Automatic rifles and machine-guns.	Guns and howitzers of calibre not exceeding 16 cm., and weight in battery, including platform and carriage, not exceeding 4 tons.	Guns and howitzers ¹ of calibre exceeding that specified in column (d) which are exclusively and permanently employed (in a fixed manner, in turrets, on fixed carriages, etc.) for the defence of fortified works.	Mortars, mine-throwers and other appliances constructed to throw projectiles less than 50 kg. in weight.

¹ Mobile pieces belonging to the armament of fortresses, etc., are to be reckoned in column (d) if they are not covered by the provisions of Article 10 (b).

Note: Arms of a pattern dating from before 1880 are not reckoned.