

Geneva, April 13th, 1932.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS**Conference for the Reduction and Limitation
of Armaments****MEMORANDUM RELATING TO THE PROPOSALS OF THE
JAPANESE DELEGATION****(Conf. D. 94)**

1. Adoption of the draft Convention as the basis of discussion.

2. Assurances to be provided for with a view to safeguarding each contracting party from menaces caused by the armaments of one or more States not party to the treaty or by the non-observance of treaty obligations on the part of one or more of the contracting parties.

In view of the relative nature of national armaments, and in view of the present world situation in which certain countries with peculiar political, social and economic structures, or with disturbed internal conditions, are holding enormous armaments, creating the sense of uneasiness in the minds of their neighbouring peoples, it is considered necessary that measures be taken to remove fears that will be caused by the armaments of non-signatory Powers or the possible non-observance of treaty obligations on the part of some signatories, in order that the proposed General Disarmament Convention may be found acceptable to the Powers and be put into force at an early date.

For the above purpose, the following suggestions are made :

(1) To facilitate the acceptance of the Convention (*a*) by carefully fixing the number of ratifications necessary for the coming into force of the Convention, or (*b*) by stipulating that each Power should be bound by the Convention upon the completion of ratifications of certain countries to be specified by that Power.

(2) Against the non-observance of the Convention, the fullest measure of guarantee should be given to the signatories in the scope of Articles 50, 51, 52 and 54 of the draft Convention or by other appropriate means.

3. Limitation and reduction of land and air armaments to be effected in such manner as to leave room for rectification of apparent defects in elements.

Certain Powers have availed themselves of special occasions to modernise, in a remarkable manner, their land and air forces, while in others these forces are still in the making. Again, advanced civil aviation enables some countries to foster military aviation, while such is not the case with some others. In an effort to reach agreement on the limitation and reduction of armaments, it is irrational to apply a uniform criterion to various countries whose peculiar conditions of armaments require careful consideration.

4. Prohibition of air bombardment of cities and towns and other methods of attack on civil populations.

Aerial bombardment for the purpose of terrorising or injuring the civilian population, of destroying or damaging cities, towns and non-military establishments, should be prohibited, while a specific agreement should be reached concerning the objectives, outside the field of the operations of land forces, at which aerial bombardment may be directed in the unavoidable cases of military necessity.

5. Prohibition of chemical and bacteriological warfare.

6. Reduction in the unit size of the capital ships and the calibre of their guns.

The maximum displacement of capital ships shall be reduced to 25,000 tons (25,400 metric tons), and the maximum calibre of their guns to 14 inches (355 mm.).

7. Reduction in the allotted tonnage of aircraft-carriers.

8. Prohibition of the fitting of aircraft-landing platforms or decks on naval vessels other than aircraft-carriers.

9. Total abolition of aircraft-carriers, provided that agreement is reached on the prohibition indicated in paragraph 8.

10. Limitation of arms and aircraft equipment on merchant vessels.

Provisions shall be incorporated in Article 19 of the draft Convention so as to prohibit :

(1) Fitting, on merchant vessels, of equipment for receiving aircraft on board from the air ;

(2) Mounting, on merchant vessels, of more than one aircraft-launching apparatus on the centre line ; or two, one on each broadside ;

(3) Design or adoption of merchant vessels for operating at sea more than three aircraft, if they are fitted with any means of launching aircraft into the air.
