

Official No. : **Conf. D. 138.**

[Conf. D./C.D.M.24.]

Geneva, July 25th, 1932.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

**Conference for the Reduction and Limitation
of Armaments**

MORAL DISARMAMENT

Note by the Secretary-General :

In accordance with the request of the President of the Conference, the Secretary-General has the honour to communicate to the delegations of the Conference a letter, dated July 20th, from M. Perrier, President of the Committee for Moral Disarmament, and the report of the Committee annexed to it.

I. LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE.

Geneva, July 20th, 1932.

I have the honour to send you herewith the report of the Committee for Moral Disarmament indicating the state of its labours at the end of the first session of the Conference.

On behalf of the Committee, I am expressing the hope that you will be good enough, after having taken note of the report and provided you see no objection thereto, to have it distributed to the delegations at the Conference.

(Signed) PERRIER,

President of the Committee for Moral Disarmament.

II. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MORAL DISARMAMENT AT THE END OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE FOR THE REDUCTION AND LIMITATION OF ARMAMENTS.

At its meeting on March 15th, 1932, the Political Commission of the Disarmament Conference, mainly in the light of the proposals submitted by the Polish Government in its memoranda dated September 23rd, 1931, February 13th and March 15th, 1932, and recognising the obvious connection which exists between material and moral disarmament, set up a Committee to study the various aspects of this question. Under the presidency of M. Perrier (delegate of Switzerland) and with the assistance of M. Szumlakowski (Poland), as Rapporteur, and M. Komarnicki (Poland), his substitute, this Committee endeavoured first of all to define the various fields it should explore.

For this purpose, it instructed a Sub-Committee to prepare the agenda of its work, taking into account the suggestions put forward by certain delegations, and a communication addressed by the President of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation to the President of the Disarmament Conference.

Having approved the proposals of its Sub-Committee, the Committee for Moral Disarmament established its agenda as follows, and grouped under three headings the various categories of questions which, it felt, ought to be examined :

1. Questions concerning intellectual co-operation and technical means of spreading information, including the problems of education, utilisation of cinematography and broadcasting ;
2. Questions concerning the co-operation of the Press ;
3. Questions of a legal character.

In the following paragraphs, an account is given, with regard to each of these groups of questions, of the work which the Committee has already accomplished, the provisional conclusions at which it has arrived, and the programme of the work it proposes to carry out subsequently.

496149



I. INTELLECTUAL CO-OPERATION, EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL MEANS OF SPREADING INFORMATION.

The Committee appointed to study these questions a Sub-Committee, which has held several meetings and has examined memoranda received from the Organisation on Intellectual Co-operation and the Rome International Educational Cinematographic Institute, and proposals submitted by several delegations.

Following on this enquiry, it proposed that the Commission should adopt as a basis of discussion a draft text prepared by the Organisation on Intellectual Co-operation which it had itself modified. This draft took into account the various proposals laid before the Committee, and, when adopting it as a basis of discussion, the Committee was careful to make every reservation concerning the final form which might be given to the text it was about to draw up. This draft, which includes a Preamble and four chapters, contained suggestions on the following points :

- (1) Education of the younger generation ;
- (2) Co-operation of the intellectual world ;
- (3) Utilisation of technical means of spreading information ;
- (4) Ways and means of giving effect to possible undertakings.

After a general discussion on the whole draft, the Committee suspended its enquiry in order to allow its members to consult their Governments before they proceeded to examine the matter in greater detail.

On resuming its labours, it discussed carefully and in detail each of the articles of the draft at a first reading. Numerous amendments and improvements were made in the original text, and a special Drafting Committee will bear these alterations in mind with a view to preparing a new text which will, if necessary, be discussed at a second reading.

The Committee has now terminated this first stage of its work.

2. CO-OPERATION OF THE PRESS IN THE WORK OF MORAL DISARMAMENT.

Following the same methods, the Committee also appointed a Sub-Committee to examine a draft resolution submitted by the Polish Government concerning the assistance which the Press might afford to the work of moral disarmament. Having accepted this draft resolution as a basis of discussion, the Sub-Committee deemed it desirable to hear representatives of international groups of journalists.

After this exchange of views, the Sub-Committee proceeded to prepare a preliminary statement, which, as soon as it is ready, will be submitted to the Committee when the Conference resumes its work.

3. QUESTIONS OF A LEGAL CHARACTER.

At its first meetings, the attention of the Committee had been specially drawn to the importance of questions of a juridical and constitutional nature which arise in connection with the problem of moral disarmament.

In view of the complexity of these problems, the Committee appealed to the great experience of M. Pella, delegate of Roumania, who was good enough to lay his knowledge unreservedly at the Committee's disposal. A special Sub-Committee has been set up to examine a comprehensive memorandum in which M. Pella has set out all the data and bases of discussion necessary for a detailed study of the question. This study will be undertaken as soon as the Conference resumes work.

THE COMMITTEE'S PROGRAMME OF WORK DURING THE SUSPENSION OF THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE.

In view of the stage at which the Committee has arrived in its work, the Committee decided that, in order to facilitate the resumption of its labours, it would be desirable, while the Conference was in adjournment, to instruct a Sub-Committee to conduct certain preparatory enquiries. This Sub-Committee will meet at the time deemed to be most opportune, when convened by its chairman. It will proceed to adapt the texts already examined at the first reading, and will, mainly on the basis of the recent proposals put forward by the British and American delegations, prepare suggestions as to the best form in which the Committee may subsequently submit its recommendations to the Political Commission.
