

Geneva, January 30th, 1933.

**LEAGUE OF NATIONS****CONFERENCE FOR THE REDUCTION AND  
LIMITATION OF ARMAMENTS****DRAFT PROPOSALS  
BY THE UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION**

At the request of the United Kingdom delegation, the Secretary-General has the honour to circulate to the members of the General Commission the following draft proposals:

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom desire to suggest that it would be advisable, as soon as the general discussion of the French Plan has been completed in the General Commission, to agree on a programme of work which would enable the Conference to embody in a Convention the proposals made by various delegations since the opening of the Conference. With that object, they suggest that the Bureau should submit to the General Commission a resolution containing directions for the ordering of the work, and they offer for consideration the following draft of such a resolution:

"The General Commission decides that the future work of the Conference should be conducted on the following lines, the direction of the work being placed in the hands of the Bureau:

**" I.**

"The aim of the Bureau should be to organise without delay practical discussion of the following topics, with the object of framing a Convention or Conventions embodying them so far as they are ultimately approved:

"(1) A solemn affirmation, to be made by all European States, that they will not in any circumstances attempt to resolve any present or future differences between them by resort to force.

"(2) The immediate study by the Continental European States with a view to their mutual security of the possibility of reaching political arrangements defining the conditions in which each of them will be entitled to the co-operation of the other contracting States.

"(3) The application of the principle that the limitations on the armaments of Germany and the other disarmed States shall be contained in the same Disarmament Convention as that which will define the limitations on the armaments of others, so that the articles in Part V of the Treaty of Versailles, which at present limit Germany's arms and armed forces, and the corresponding provisions of the other Peace Treaties, would be replaced by the Disarmament Convention as far as the disarmed States are concerned.

"(4) The application of the principle that the newly expressed limitations in the case of Germany and the other disarmed States shall last for the same period and be subject to the same methods of revision as those of all other countries; and the embodiment in the Disarmament Convention of an undertaking on the part of the signatory States to enter upon negotiations in due course before the expiry of this Convention with a view to concluding a new Disarmament Convention for the purpose of further adjustment of armaments.

"(5) The embodiment in the Convention, as regards war material, of the principle of qualitative equality, and the provision for the realisation of such equality, if not immediately after its entry into force, then by specified stages. The reduction of the armies of the Continental European States to a uniform general type of organisation would have to be considered in this connection.



“ II.

“ A. *Security.*

“ The Political Commission should be instructed at once to study the methods of giving effect to point (1) above.

“ A Committee of the Continental European States should be immediately constituted to examine point (2) above.

“ B. *Disarmament.*

“ (a) *Effectives.* — The Bureau shall at once undertake the following work:

“ (i) In accordance with the plan for the calculation of land forces contained in the proposals of President Hoover, compute the totals of personnel of the ‘ police component ’ (the irreducible component) of the existing land forces of each country, both metropolitan and overseas. For this purpose it shall instruct the Effectives Committee to make to it within . . . days recommendations concerning the ratios to be employed in this calculation. If within that time the Effectives Committee has been unable to reach a unanimous recommendation, it must report fully to the Bureau the state of its discussions, and it will be for the Bureau to take a definite decision.

“ (ii) Agree upon the percentage by which the ‘ defence component ’ (the excess over the ‘ police component ’) of each State shall be reduced, such reduction to be effected by a certain date or dates to be specified.

“ (iii) Determine the stages and methods by which Continental European armies may be brought into harmony with the general type of organisation adopted (see I (5)). For the discussion of this point, the Bureau may require the Effectives Committee to submit recommendations.

“ (b) *Land War Material.* — The Bureau shall:

“ (i) Fix the maximum tonnage of tanks;

“ (ii) Fix for the future the maximum calibre of mobile land guns;

“ (iii) Decide whether there should be a limitation of the number of tanks of allowed tonnage and of mobile land guns of allowed calibre;

“ (iv) If a limitation of the number of tanks is accepted, decide as to the disposal of tanks exceeding that limit.

“ (c) *Air.* — The Bureau shall at once constitute a committee of representatives of the principal air Powers to examine the possibility of the entire abolition of military and naval machines and of bombing from the air, combined with an effective international control of civil aviation. As a preliminary to the decision to be taken by the Committee of Air Powers, the Bureau shall at once:

“ (i) Fix the maximum unladen weight of military and naval aircraft;

“ (ii) Decide as to the disposal of machines exceeding that limit—whether they shall be scrapped, and, if so, the dates by which scrapping must have been effected;

“ (iii) Fix the numbers of machines not exceeding the unladen weight limit which may be allowed to each State.

“ (d) *Naval Forces.* — The Bureau shall fix the maximum tonnage and maximum calibre of gun for:

“ (i) Capital ships;

“ (ii) Aircraft-carriers (if these are allowed to be retained or replaced);

“ (iii) Cruisers;

“ (iv) Destroyers;

“ (v) Submarines (if these are allowed to be retained or replaced).”

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