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[Distributed to the Council,
the Members of the League
and the States invited to the
Disarmament Conference.]

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Geneva, December 21st, 1931.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

ARMAMENTS TRUCE

Note by the Secretary-General :

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Governments invited to the Conference for the Limitation and Reduction of Armaments the following documents concerning the truce in armaments:

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(Communiqué au Conseil,
aux Membres de la Société
et aux Etats invités à la
Conférence du Désarmement)

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Addendum
au C. 919. M. 484. 1931. IX.
(Conf. D. 35.)

SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS

Genève, le 18 février 1932.

TREVE DES ARMEMENTS

Suite des réponses des gouvernements à la lettre
du Secrétaire général, en date du 2 octobre 1931
(C.L. 257.)

55. GUATEMALA

Guatemala, le 19 janvier 1932.

Le Gouvernement de Guatemala adhère à la trêve des
armements.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

ARMAMENTS TRUCE

Continuation of replies from Governments to the
Secretary-General's letter dated October 2nd, 1931.
(C.L. 257.)

55. GUATEMALA

Guatemala, January 19th, 1932.

The Government of Guatemala adheres to the armaments
truce.

Série de Publications de la Société des Nations

IX. DESARMEMENT
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I.

REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE, ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY
ON SEPTEMBER 29TH, 1931.¹

Rapporteur: M. DE MADARIAGA (Spain).

In the general discussion of the report on the work of the League of Nations since the last Assembly, a number of speakers emphasised the decisive importance of the result of the coming General Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments.

The Third Committee noted with keen satisfaction that the Council had fixed February 2nd, 1932, as the date for the convening of the General Disarmament Conference, and that the confidence expressed by the eleventh Assembly in this connection had thus been justified. The representatives of many countries expressed the opinion that the Assembly ought not to adjourn without contributing to the work of the said Disarmament Conference, by preparing the moral atmosphere essential to its success by means of an act of international goodwill. This view was expressed by a large number of speakers in the Assembly, in particular by the first Italian delegate, M. Grandi, who announced a proposal for the institution of an armaments truce as a means of preparing the Conference. The matter was also the subject of a draft resolution (document A.51.1931.IX), submitted to the Assembly by the Danish, Norwegian, Netherlands, Swedish and Swiss delegations and referred to the Third Committee on September 12th last.

This draft resolution proposed that the Assembly should, in the first place, issue a solemn appeal to all who desire the application of the principles of peace and justice on which the Covenant is based to devote all their efforts to the creation of a world opinion strong enough to ensure the success of the Conference, and, in the second place, request the Council to urge the Governments summoned to the Conference to abstain, pending its result, from any steps for the increase of the present level of their armaments.

* * *

The Third Committee was of opinion that, in view of the close connection between its discussions on the subject and the work to be done by the Conference, it would be desirable for those States not represented in the Assembly, but which are invited to take part in the Conference, to take part also in the work of the Committee relating to disarmament.

On the Third Committee's proposal, the President of the Assembly, in agreement with the General Committee, on September 19th, invited the following States to be represented on the Committee: Afghanistan, Argentine, Brazil, Costa Rica, Egypt, Ecuador, Salvador, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America. It was proposed that the States that were not members of the League should be represented in an advisory capacity only.

The following States accepted the Assembly's invitation: Costa Rica, Egypt, Turkey, the United States of America and Brazil, the latter being represented by an observer.

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that, in view, amongst other things, of the short notice given, it was unable to send a delegate to take part in the discussions of the Third Committee. Being, however, always prepared to support any proposal for the limitation of armaments, it would be disposed to associate itself with the proposal of the Italian Foreign Minister, M. Grandi, provided that proposal was adopted in a form obligatory on all countries, and that it covered all classes of armaments, and that the signatories of the undertaking confirmed that it should not in any case replace or postpone the essential problem of disarmament or limitation of existing armaments, which must be settled as quickly as possible.

* * *

The Third Committee had before it, on the one hand, the draft resolution presented by the five countries; on the other hand, a concrete proposal proposed by the Italian delegation to give effect to the proposal made by M. Grandi at the Assembly. A discussion of some importance took place in connection with these proposals.

The idea of an armaments truce as a contribution to the preparation for the Conference met with general assent. But opinion was divided as to the forms and methods of giving practical application to this idea.

* * *

In the course of the Committee's discussions, the Italian delegation, with the support of a certain number of other delegations, and particularly of the British delegation, submitted a draft resolution which in its view, while based on the same motives as the five countries' draft resolution, was calculated to give more precise form to the idea of the armaments truce.

¹ Document A.93(1).1931.IX.

The Italian proposal was that each Government should undertake for a period of one year dating from November 1st, 1931:

- (1) Not to increase its expenditure on land forces already authorised for the current financial year, and not to exceed the total of such expenditure during the next financial year until the expiry of the truce;
- (2) Not to place any warship on the stocks, provided always that vessels under construction might be continued and completed;
- (3) To suspend the construction of additional military aircraft, except to replace machines which are placed out of commission during the truce.

The British delegation completed the Italian proposal by an amendment to which the Italian delegation agreed, with regard to the procedure to be followed for the practical application of the Italian proposal.

The Committee, moreover, had before it certain amendments by the French delegation to the five countries' draft resolution. Useful suggestions were also made by a large number of delegates.

* * *

The Third Committee was of opinion that a tangible gesture should be made, indicating not only the desire of the countries represented on the Committee to renounce for one year, as from November 1st, 1931, any increase in the present level of their armaments, but also creating before February 2nd, 1932, an atmosphere favourable to the success of the great Disarmament Conference.

The Committee was fully conscious of the fact that such an undertaking could not and should not replace the decisions that might be reached on a contractual basis at the Conference itself.

Nevertheless, it felt that it would be expedient to make a gesture which, although having a chiefly moral character, would be, in the Committee's opinion, none the less effectual in its effects on the Governments and public opinion.

The Committee's aim has been to prepare the moral atmosphere of the Conference by getting the present session of the Assembly to take a plain and palpable decision for an armaments truce. Certain delegations felt that a vague obligation was likely to lead to different interpretations and consequently to dangerous controversies, and that only definite obligations could answer to the end in view. But this made it necessary to elaborate a veritable Convention, and only the Conference itself could do so at the outset of its work. Nevertheless, the Italian delegation, supported by other delegations, pointed out that this latter procedure would not enable the truce to be utilised as an element in preparing for the Conference, and it accordingly pressed its proposal.

But the Italian proposal, which had the virtue of defining the obligations to be assumed, contained, as some delegations thought, technical difficulties as regards execution, caused by the definition itself and by the short period allowed the various countries between the adoption and the execution of the plan. The Committee strove to combine the advantages of the various proposals by eliminating their disadvantages, *viz.*, by inviting the various Governments to assume material obligations which were nevertheless sufficiently flexible to allow them to be carried out. The result was the resolution, the text of which is given later. This resolution is intended to prevent an increase in the effort at present being expended on the whole of the armaments of each country.

Certain delegations made a point of stating explicitly that they did not regard as incompatible with the principle thus laid down, which must remain predominant, such measures as the normal carrying out of legal enactments relating to effectives, the regular execution of programmes for the upkeep and renewal of land, naval and air material or fortifications and the constitution of the corresponding stocks.

The *Armaments Truce* will be brought about by means of an undertaking to be given in the form of a declaration by the various Governments before November 1st, 1931. Certain delegations consider that it is to be anticipated that in their replies States will take into account the position of their neighbours and especially those who are not members of the League of Nations.

If, as a result of unforeseen circumstances, such as are more likely to arise in the case of countries having responsibilities overseas, a Government should find itself compelled to suspend the operation of its declaration, the Secretary-General of the League of Nations should be immediately notified and should inform the other Governments concerned.

The Third Committee hopes that by unanimously accepting the proposed truce, the Governments Members or non-members of the League will help to create an atmosphere favourable to the work of the important Conference to which they have been summoned.

The Third Committee therefore proposes to the Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

" Convinced that the crisis which at the present time is creating such profound disturbance among the nations of the world is due to a number of economic and political causes originating principally in the lack of mutual confidence between the nations, and

" Convinced that a renewal of the competition in armaments would necessarily lead to an international and social catastrophe:

“ The Assembly addresses a solemn appeal to all those who are desirous that practical effect should be given to the principles of peace and justice upon which the Covenant is based and urges them to devote all their efforts towards creating a world opinion strong enough to enable the General Disarmament Conference to achieve positive results, including in particular a gradual reduction of armaments to be continued until such time as the object laid down in Article 8 of the Covenant is attained.

“ In view of the fact that an undertaking on the part of all States not to increase their armaments would help to create an atmosphere of confidence, to prevent competition in armaments and to prepare the ground for the success of the forthcoming Conference:

“ The Assembly,

“ Requests the Governments invited to the Disarmament Conference to prepare for this event by means of an armaments truce and, accordingly,

“ Requests the Council to urge the Governments convened to the said Conference to give proof of their earnest desire for the successful issue of the efforts to ensure and organise peace and, without prejudging the decisions of the Conference or the programmes or proposals submitted to it by each Government, to refrain from any measure involving an increase in their armaments.

“ Likewise requests the Council to ask the Governments to state before November 1st, 1931, whether they are prepared for a period of one year as from that date to accept this truce in armaments.”

II.

REPORT BY THE SPANISH REPRESENTATIVE ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1931.¹

At its sitting of September 29th, the Assembly adopted the report and the resolution presented to it by M. de Madariaga, Rapporteur of the Third Committee. The text of this resolution is as follows:

“ Convinced that the crisis which at the present time is creating such profound disturbance among the nations of the world is due to a number of economic and political causes originating principally in the lack of mutual confidence between the nations, and

“ Convinced that a renewal of the competition in armaments would necessarily lead to an international and social catastrophe;

“ The Assembly,

“ Addresses a solemn appeal to all those who are desirous that practical effect should be given to the principles of peace and justice upon which the Covenant is based and urges them to devote all their efforts towards creating a world opinion strong enough to enable the General Disarmament Conference to achieve positive results, including in particular a gradual reduction of armaments to be continued until such time as the object laid down in Article 8 of the Covenant is attained.

“ In view of the fact that an undertaking on the part of all States not to increase their armaments would help to create an atmosphere of confidence, to prevent competition in armaments and to prepare the ground for the success of the forthcoming Conference;

“ The Assembly,

“ Requests the Governments invited to the Disarmament Conference to prepare for this event by means of an armaments truce, and, accordingly:

“ Requests the Council to urge the Governments convened to the said Conference to give proof of their earnest desire for the successful issue of the efforts to ensure and organise peace and, without prejudging the decisions of the Conference or the programmes or proposals submitted to it by each Government, to refrain from any measure involving an increase in their armaments.

“ Likewise requests the Council to ask the Governments to state before November 1st, 1931, whether they are prepared for a period of one year as from that date to accept this truce in armaments.”

If my colleagues agree with me, I will suggest that the Council should request the Secretary-General to communicate the text of this resolution and the report of the Third Committee to the Governments invited to the Disarmament Conference and to ask them whether, in accordance with the terms of the last paragraph of the said resolution, they are prepared to accept the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly.

I would further suggest to the Council to authorise the Secretary-General to take, in consultation with the President, such measures as may be necessary for the distribution to the States invited to the Conference of the replies of the various Governments, so as to enable them to consider the said replies and to take a final decision thereon.

¹ Document C.639(1).1931.IX.

III.

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, DATED OCTOBER 2ND, 1931, TO ALL THE STATES INVITED TO THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.¹

In execution of a decision of the Council of the League of Nations of September 30th, the text of which is attached (document C.639 (1).1931.IX), I have the honour to forward the report and resolution relating to the armaments truce adopted by the Assembly on September 29th (document A.93.1931.IX).

In accordance with these decisions, I would ask you to be good enough to let me know before November 1st, 1931, whether your Government is prepared, in accordance with the terms of the above-mentioned resolution and report, to accept the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly.

(Signed) Eric DRUMMOND,
Secretary-General.

IV.

REPLIES FROM GOVERNMENTS TO THE LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL DATED OCTOBER 2ND, 1931.

1. **Union of South Africa.**²

Geneva, November 3rd, 1931.

His Majesty's Government in the Union of South Africa is prepared to accept the armaments truce proposed by the twelfth Assembly for one year from November 1931, subject to its acceptance by other States invited to the Disarmament Conference.

His Majesty's Government in the Union of South Africa desires further to state that its programme of land, naval and air material to be constructed or acquired during the period of the truce is and will remain in conformity with the resolution of the Assembly as interpreted in the passage occurring in the report of the Third Committee of the twelfth Assembly beginning with the words "certain delegations made a point of stating", and ending with the words "or fortifications and constitution of corresponding stocks".

It is, of course, to be understood that, as stated in the report of the Third Committee, if, as a result of unforeseen circumstances, His Majesty's Government in the Union of South Africa should find itself compelled to suspend the operation of this undertaking under the armaments truce, it would immediately notify the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

(Signed) F. F. PIENAAR,
Accredited Representative.

2. **Albania.**³

Tirana, October 17th, 1931.

In reply, I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Royal Government of Albania is desirous of seeing the ideals of peace and justice on which the Covenant is based firmly established throughout the world and of helping to prepare the ground for the success of the coming Conference. It is therefore ready to accept the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly at its meeting on September 29th, according to the terms of the above-mentioned resolution and report.

(Signed) H. VRIONI,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

¹ Circular Letter 257.1931.IX.

² Document C.790.M.384.1931.IX.

³ Document C.760.M.358.1931.IX.

3. **Germany.**¹

Berlin, October 30th, 1931.

Being anxious to support all measures which might facilitate the work of the Disarmament Conference, the German Government declares itself willing to accept the one year's armaments truce proposed by the Assembly of the League of Nations on September 29th, 1931. It does so on the assumption that the replies of the other Governments, of which it awaits the communication in accordance with the report adopted by the Council on September 30th last, will likewise contain an acceptance with no serious reservations.

As representative of a country which has already had to reduce its armaments to a minimum in virtue of treaty obligations, I think it desirable to point out in this connection that the limitation of armaments to their present level by the one year's truce can only be regarded as a preliminary step to facilitate the proceedings of the coming Disarmament Conference, and not as a measure for the accomplishment of the task the Conference is set. That task does not consist in stabilising the present position with regard to armaments; it entails primarily an effective reduction of the armaments of the heavily armed countries, which must proceed from the fundamental idea of legal equality for all the signatory States and their equal right to national security.

(Signed) BRÜNING.

4. **Argentina.**¹

Buenos Aires, October 31st, 1931.

In reply to the invitation contained in your note of October 2nd relating to the armaments truce for a period of one year from November 1st next, the Argentine Government is happy to accede to the proposed declaration whereby the Governments will refrain, during that period, from any measure involving an increase in their armaments, on the understanding that the truce will not apply to material already ordered or under construction, or to replacements, or to material which is under consideration with a view to putting into effect the provisions of the Acquisition Laws of 1923 and 1926.

(Signed) Adolfo BLOY,
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

5. **Australia.**¹

London, October 30th, 1931.

I am asked by the Right Honourable the Prime Minister of Australia to inform you that His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia, being convinced that the success of the Disarmament Conference will be greatly promoted by a general undertaking by all the States invited to that Conference not to increase their armaments for one year from November 1st, 1931, is prepared to accept the armaments truce proposed by the twelfth Assembly, subject to its acceptance by the other States invited to the Disarmament Conference.

While thus notifying its acceptance of the proposed truce, His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia desires to draw attention to the following passage which occurs in the report of the Third Committee of the twelfth Assembly:

“ Certain delegations made a point of stating explicitly that they do not regard as incompatible with the principle thus laid down, which must remain predominant, such measures as the normal carrying out of legal enactments relating to effectives, the regular execution of programmes for the upkeep and renewal of land, naval and air material or fortifications and the constitution of the corresponding stocks.”

—and to state that its programme of land, naval and air material to be constructed or acquired during the period of the truce is already and will remain in conformity with the resolution of the Assembly as interpreted by the above quoted passage.

It is, of course, understood, that, as stated in the report of the Third Committee, if, as a result of unforeseen circumstances, His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia should find itself compelled to suspend the operation of this undertaking under the armaments truce, it will immediately notify the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

(Signed) J. A. S. R. COLLINS,
Official Secretary and Financial Adviser.

¹ Document C.787.M.381.1931.IX.

6. **Austria.**¹

Vienna, October 28th, 1931.

I have the honour to inform you that the Federal Government declares itself willing to agree, in accordance with the terms of the resolution and report adopted by the Assembly on September 29th last (document A.93.1931.IX), to the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly.

(Signed) SCHOBER,
*Federal Vice-Chancellor of the Republic
of Austria.*

7. **Belgium.**¹

Brussels, October 30th, 1931.

You ask me to let you know whether the Belgian Government is prepared to accept the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly in accordance with the terms of the resolution and the report, from which latter it appears that the truce is not incompatible with the normal establishment of the effectives provided for by the military laws in force in Belgium, nor with the regular execution of the Belgian Government's programmes for the upkeep and renewal of land and air material and the constitution of the corresponding stocks, nor with the execution of defensive works now in progress.

Being convinced that an undertaking of this nature will help to create an atmosphere of confidence on the eve of the Conference for the Limitation and Reduction of Armaments, His Majesty's Government accepts the truce as explained and defined in the Third Committee's report and the Assembly's resolution.

(Signed) HYMANS,
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

8. **Bulgaria.**²

Berne, November 2nd, 1931.

I have the honour to inform you that the Bulgarian Government accepts the proposed armaments truce.

As a disarmed country, Bulgaria warmly welcomes the limitation of the armaments of the other States for one year.

(Signed) MIKOFF,
Chargé d'Affaires.

9. **Canada.**¹

Geneva, October 31st, 1931.

I am directed to inform you that the Government of Canada is prepared to accept the armaments truce, in accordance with the terms of the above-mentioned resolution and report.

(Signed) W. A. RIDDELL,
Canadian Advisory Officer.

10. **Chile.**¹

Brussels, October 29th, 1931.

My Government instructs me to state on its behalf that it is prepared to accept for one year as from November 1st, 1931, an armaments truce in the spirit and according to the terms of the Assembly resolution in question and subject to the conditions contemplated in the Third Committee's report.

The Chilean Government, which has both restored in its own country the prestige and freedom of institutions and consolidated abroad its traditional policy of cordial and pacific international co-operation, is very happy to take this opportunity of giving a fresh proof of the sincerity with which Chile is endeavouring to the utmost of its power to help in securing and organising universal peace; nor does it doubt that all the nations of the continent to which it belongs are inspired by like sentiments.

(Signed) J. VALDÉS-MENDEVILLE,
*Head of the Permanent Bureau
of Chile accredited to the League of Nations.*

¹ Document C.777.M.372.1931.IX.

² Document C.790.M.384.1931.IX.

11. **China.**¹

Geneva, November 7th, 1931.

I beg to inform you that the Chinese Government is prepared to accede to the Assembly's proposal for a truce in armaments as a preliminary to and corollary of the Disarmament Conference. But, in the view of the Chinese Government, the fate of this proposal and of the Disarmament Conference itself depends upon the issue of the present Manchurian conflict before the League. Should the Covenant and the Pact of Paris prove to be bulwarks of peace and international justice on which the law-abiding nations can rely for their safety, the armaments truce and the Disarmament Conference will mark a long step forward in the organisation of peace. If by some unhappy mischance these bulwarks should crumble, the Chinese Government and people would be regretfully compelled to put above all other national tasks the building up of a national defence strong enough to secure respect, and preserve against external aggression, the territorial integrity and political independence of China.

(Signed) Sao-Ke Alfred SZE.

12. **Colombia.**²

Bogotá, October 22nd, 1931.

The Colombian Government is requested to state whether it is prepared, in accordance with the terms of the above-mentioned resolution and report, to accept the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly, and I have great pleasure in informing you that the Government and the people of Colombia, faithful to their policy of true and effective peace, as proclaimed and practised by that country ever since it has been an independent nation, welcome and gladly accept the truce in question, convinced as they are that it will help essentially to strengthen mutual confidence between the peoples and to create an atmosphere of real international cordiality.

(Signed) R. URDANETA ARBELAEZ.

13. **Costa Rica.**²

San José (Costa Rica), October 20th, 1931.

In reply, I am happy to be able to inform you that, Costa Rica being already completely disarmed, it is among the countries which accept the armaments truce.

(Signed) Leonidas PACHECO.

14. **Cuba.**²

Havana, November 19th, 1931.

With reference to your note of October 2nd, I have the honour to inform you that the Republic of Cuba agrees to the armaments truce for one year.

(Signed) VIVANCO,
Secretary of State.

15. **Denmark.**³

Geneva, October 30th, 1931.

I am directed by my Government to inform you that it accepts the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly, in accordance with the terms of the resolution and report adopted by the Assembly on September 29th last.

(Signed) William BORBERG,
*Permanent Delegate of Denmark
to the League of Nations.*

¹ Document C.837.M.417.1931.IX.

² Document C.915.M.481.1931.IX.

³ Document C.777.M.372.1931.IX.

16. **Egypt.**¹

October 27th, 1931.

I have the honour to inform you that the Egyptian Government is prepared to accept the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly for one year as from November 1st, 1931. — Abdel Fattah YEHIA Pasha, *Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs*.

17. **Ecuador.**²

Quito, November 21st, 1931.

I hasten to inform you that the Government of Ecuador has pleasure in acceding unreservedly to the proposed armaments truce.

(Signed) Carlos Manuel LARREA,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador.

18. **Spain.**³

Madrid, October 30th, 1931.

The Spanish Government accepts the armaments truce in accordance with the terms of the resolution and report approved by the Assembly on September 29th last, but reserves the right to reconsider its decision if a like decision is not reached by all the permanent Members of the Council and the European non-permanent Members.

(Signed) LERROUX,
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

19. **Estonia.**³

Tallinn, October 29th, 1931.

The Estonian Government has had great satisfaction in acquainting itself with the report and resolution relating to the armaments truce adopted by the Assembly on September 29th, 1931. Being convinced that an undertaking on the part of all countries not to increase their armaments would help to create an atmosphere of confidence, to prevent competition in armaments and to prepare the ground for the success of the forthcoming Disarmament Conference, the Estonian Government declares itself willing, in accordance with the terms of the above-mentioned resolution and report, to accept the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly.

In making this declaration, the Estonian Government trusts that a like undertaking will be given by all other States and, in particular, by the neighbours of the Republic of Estonia, in order that there may be every possible guarantee that the positive aims of the Assembly's resolution will be realised.

(Signed) J. TÕNISSON,
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

20. **United States of America.**⁴

Berne, October 30th, 1931.

The Government of the United States has received the resolution of the Council of the League of Nations of September 30th, 1931, suggesting an armaments truce, and declares that, without prejudicing its position at the forthcoming General Disarmament Conference or affecting any proposal it may desire to submit to that Conference, it is prepared, for the period of one year beginning November 1st, 1931, to accept the truce, provided that like action is taken by the other principal military and naval Powers.

It is the understanding of this Government that the proposed truce shall not apply to construction which had been begun or for which contracts had been let prior to its entry into force.

¹ Document C.767.M.363.1931.IX.

² Document C.915.M.481.1931.IX.

³ Document C.787.M.381.1931.IX.

⁴ Document C.781.M.376.1931.IX.

The Government of the United States hopes that, by a unanimous acceptance of this truce, an atmosphere of confidence will be created which will prevent competition in armaments and prepare the ground for the successful conclusion of the General Disarmament Conference.

*Legation of the United States
of America.*

21. Finland.¹

Helsinki, October 27th, 1931.

As Finland has always emphasised, her defensive forces are intended solely to preserve her independence. Consequently, they can never represent a danger to her neighbours. The organisation of Finland's defensive forces is not yet, however, completed, as there has been too little time since the country gained its independence. Moreover, since similar organising work has been necessary in many other fields, it has not been possible to devote adequate funds to the development of national defence. For this reason, the defensive forces of Finland are not yet what they may reasonably be expected to be. That being so, it is only fair and equitable that Finland, who has but lately gained complete independence, and with it both the power and the duty of organising her own defensive forces, should be allowed to complete their organisation, equipment and armament up to the level in contemplation which is essential for national defence and proportionate to the level attained by other countries. Such a completion of the organisation of national defence clearly does not involve any increase in Finland's armaments in the current international acceptance of the expression. On the contrary, if only for the sake of her own security, Finland is prepared to sign the demand that national armaments shall be prevented from exceeding the level at which they might constitute a danger to international security.

In conformity with her general pacific policy, Finland hastens to associate herself with the efforts for the establishment of an atmosphere favourable to the Disarmament Conference in contemplation. Inasmuch, however, as this is being aimed at by the method of an armaments truce, Finland assumes, for the reasons given above, that if, in order to contribute towards this common end, which is so important for all, she undertakes to accept the proposed restriction, that restriction does not in any sense mean that she abandons her right to carry out the defence programme required for her security and proportionate to the level of the armaments of other countries. In this connection, Finland has paid special attention to the passage in the above-mentioned Assembly resolution whereby agreement to the armaments truce will be given "without prejudging the decisions of the Conference or the programmes or proposals submitted to it by each Government". In the Finnish Government's view, this reservation is of particular importance to small States in a similar position to that of Finland. To obviate any misunderstanding, the Finnish Government would observe that it construes both the actual text of the resolution relating to the armaments truce and the appended report to mean that the essential object of the truce is to give evidence of goodwill by refraining from any fresh action which would appreciably increase the present level of armaments. Consequently, Finland proposes to act in complete conformity with the proposed truce by having a number of new aeroplanes built next year and acquiring certain other armaments to replace those which will have to be scrapped. In this connection, the Finnish Government would point out that, according to the estimate laid before the House, the total national defence budget for 1932 will be 72.9 million Finnish marks lower than that for the current year. Even so, that does not take into account recent fluctuations in the Finnish and other currencies, which may possibly alter on paper, but not in fact, the amount of this reduced defence budget. It should be added that since the defensive forces of the country are still incomplete, as stated above, the figures of the 1932 budget can in no case be taken as a basis when the question arises of fixing the amount of Finland's defence budget for a longer period.

On these assumptions and subject to the conditions set forth above, Finland declares herself willing to refrain for one year, from November 1st, 1931, from any new measure involving an increase in her armaments, as provided in the resolution adopted by the Assembly of the League of Nations on September 29th, 1931.

(Signed) A. S. YRJÖ-KOSKINEN.

22. France.¹

Paris, October 30th, 1931.

I have the honour to inform you that if the proposed truce is observed by the countries adjacent to France, the Government of the Republic agrees, for its part, to accept it, in

¹ Document C.787.M.381.1931.IX.

accordance with the terms of the resolution and with the conditions defined in the report adopted by the Assembly on September 29th.

(Signed) BRIAND.

23. **Great Britain.**¹

London, October 29th, 1931.

1. I am directed by the Marquess of Reading to state, for information of the Council, that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, convinced that the success of the Disarmament Conference will be greatly promoted by a general undertaking by all the States invited to that Conference not to increase their armaments for one year from November 1st, 1931, are prepared to accept the armaments truce proposed by the twelfth Assembly, subject to its acceptance by the other States invited to the Disarmament Conference.

2. While thus notifying their acceptance of the proposed truce, His Majesty's Government desire to draw attention to the following passage which occurs in the report of the Third Committee of the twelfth Assembly:

“Certain delegations made a point of stating explicitly that they do not regard as incompatible with the principle thus laid down, which must remain predominant, such measures as the normal carrying out of legal enactments relating to effectives, the regular execution of programmes for the upkeep and renewal of land, naval and air material or fortifications and the constitution of the corresponding stocks.”

—and to state that their programme of land, naval and air material to be constructed or acquired during the period of the truce is already and will remain in conformity with the resolution of the Assembly as interpreted by the above quoted passage.

3. It is, of course, understood, that, as stated in the report of the Third Committee, if, as a result of unforeseen circumstances, such as are more likely to arise in the case of countries having responsibilities overseas, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom should find themselves compelled to suspend the operation of this undertaking under the armaments truce, they will immediately notify the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

(Signed) A. W. A. LEEPER.

24. **Greece.**²

Geneva, November 11th, 1931.

I have the honour to inform you that my Government accepts the armaments truce mentioned in the resolution adopted on September 29th by the twelfth Assembly and defined in the report of its Third Committee (document A.93.1931.IX).

The Greek Government consequently undertakes not to increase its military expenditure for a period of one year as from November 1st, 1931, under the conditions stated in the said report, and not to exceed the budget estimates already authorised for the partial replacement of obsolete warships.

As regards the air force, which was not created in Greece until two years ago, the Greek Government, in order to complete gradually its organisation, which is still very incomplete, must provide for a slight increase in expenditure to meet the requirements of civil aviation and the technical training of personnel.

(Signed) R. RAPHAEL,
Permanent Delegate.

25. **Haiti.**³

Port-au-Prince, November 26th, 1931.

I beg to inform you that the Government of Haiti, being convinced that the truce will not in any way prejudice the maintenance of its security, agree, notwithstanding the fact that its armaments are extremely small, to refrain, for one year from November 1st, 1931, from any measure involving an increase in those armaments, on condition that the truce is accepted by the other States, more particularly those adjacent to Haiti.

(Signed) A. N. LÉGER.

¹ Document C.787.M.381.1931.IX.

² Document C.853.M.431.1931.IX.

³ Document C.973.M.536.1931.IX.

26. **Hedjaz.**¹

[*Telegram.*]

Mecca, November 23rd, 1931.

In reply to the invitation contained in your note of October 2nd on the subject of armaments truce for a period of one year from November 1931, His Majesty's Government is happy to declare its accession to the proposed truce in accordance with the terms of League Council's decision and subject to conditions defined in the report of Third Committee of Twelfth Assembly, of which I quote the following passage: "Certain delegations made a point of stating explicitly that they do not regard as incompatible with the principle thus laid down which must remain predominant such measures as the normal carrying out of legal enactments relating to effectives the regular execution of programmes for the upkeep and renewal of land naval and air material or fortifications and the constitution of the corresponding stocks." — FAISAL, *Minister of Foreign Affairs.*

27. **Hungary.**²

Geneva, October 27th, 1931.

I have the honour to inform you that the Hungarian Government accepts the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly of the League of Nations on the understanding that this truce should not, in its opinion, involve any postponement in the reduction of armaments and still less in the final solution of the problem of reduction of armaments.

The truce proposed by the Assembly is only of very indirect concern to Hungary as a disarmed country whose armaments have already been limited by the treaty of peace. As a disarmed country, Hungary expects that the other countries—particularly those not in the same situation as herself—will also comply with the obligations in connection with the reduction of armaments which they have entered into in virtue of the Covenant of the League of Nations. For this reason, Hungary would have been glad if the States Members of the League of Nations had shown themselves prepared to assume more concrete obligations in connection with the truce.

(Signed) PELÉNYI,

Resident Minister of Hungary.

28. **India.**³

London, October 31st, 1931.

Government of India is prepared to accept armaments truce in the same general terms as have been separately indicated on behalf of British Government.

(Signed) E. J. TURNER.

29. **Irish Free State.**³

Geneva, October 31st, 1931.

I have the honour to inform you that my Government is prepared to accept, for one year and subject to the terms of the report and resolution adopted by the Assembly of the League of Nations on September 29th, the proposed armaments truce.

(Signed) Sean LESTER,

*Permanent Delegate accredited to the
League of Nations.*

30. **Italy.**⁴

Rome, October 29th, 1931.

I have the honour to inform you that the Italian Government accepts the truce and undertakes henceforward to apply it to its own armaments in accordance with the terms of the report and resolution referred to above.

The Italian Government, which, through its delegation, laid before the Assembly a proposal for fixing in more definite and concrete terms the details of application of the armaments truce,

¹ Document C.924.M.489.1931.IX.

² Document C.780.M.375.1931.IX.

³ Document C.777.M.372.1931.IX.

⁴ Document C.787.M.381.1931.IX.

is prepared to fulfil the undertaking resulting from the present declaration in the spirit on which its proposal was based—*i.e.*, by forgoing any increase in the present level of its armaments for a period of one year.

The execution of this undertaking is, of course, subject to the condition that the other States will assume and carry out a similar undertaking.

(Signed) GRANDI,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

31. **Japan.**¹

October 29th, 1931.

Reply to your letter October 2nd and on instructions Government has honour to inform you as follows:

With reference to the armaments truce which formed the subject of a resolution of the twelfth Assembly, the Japanese Government is ready to accept it for the period of one year from November 1st, 1931.

Nevertheless, having regard to the spirit of the above-mentioned resolution and the report of the Third Committee of the twelfth Assembly on the subject, the Japanese Government is of opinion that the truce in question must not affect in any way the improvement in the organisation and equipment of the army which will be carried out within the limits of the budget already voted, nor the execution of programmes already approved by Parliament. Further, the Japanese Government makes its undertaking in regard to the truce in question conditional on its neighbours and especially those not members of the League of Nations being bound by the same obligations as itself. — SAWADA.

32. **Latvia.**²

Riga, October 26th, 1931.

I have the honour to inform you that the Latvian Government willingly accepts the armaments truce within the meaning of the report of the Third Committee to the Assembly dated September 29th, 1931 (document A.93.1931.IX).

On behalf of the Latvian Republic, I declare that Latvia will abstain from any measure involving an increase of her armaments for the period of one year from November 1st, 1931, on condition that the armaments truce shall be accepted or similar declarations made by all other countries neighbours of Latvia.

(Signed) K. ULMANIS,
*President of the Council and Minister
for Foreign Affairs.*

33. **Liberia.**³

Geneva, December 7th, 1931.

In reply to your note of October 2nd last (C.L.257.1931.IX), I have the honour to inform you that my Government accepts the resolution of the last Assembly relating to the armaments truce.

(Signed) Dr. Antoine SOTTILE,
*Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Delegate to the League of Nations.*

34. **Lithuania.**⁴

Kaunas, October 29th, 1931.

I have the honour to inform you that the Lithuanian Government has pleasure in hereby declaring that it accepts the proposal of refraining for a period of one year, as from November 1st next, from any measure involving an increase in the armed forces of the Republic. It wishes, however, to emphasise the fact expressly proclaimed in the Assembly's report on this subject, that, in accepting the armaments truce, it does not debar itself from taking such measures as the normal carrying out of legal enactments relating to effectives, the regular execution of programmes for the upkeep and renewal of land, naval and air material or fortifications and the constitution of the corresponding stocks.

¹ Document C.772.M.367.1931.IX.

² Document C.773.M.368.1931.IX.

³ Document C.973.M.536.1931.IX.

⁴ Document C.787.M.381.1931.IX.

The Lithuanian Government further ventures to state here its conviction that the proposed armaments truce will not produce the happy effects anticipated and serve the ideal of peace unless it is accepted by every State without exception, since in its opinion the abstention of one State would be enough to reduce considerably, if not destroy, the practical effect of the truce.

My Government is therefore obliged to render its undertaking conditional on the acceptance of the armaments truce by the other States, and particularly those on its borders. Hence, it is understood that in case of the breach or denunciation of the undertaking in question by another State, the Lithuanian Government will cease to be bound by this undertaking.

I desire to emphasise the Lithuanian Government's profound conviction that the Assembly's generous proposal will be entirely accepted by every country. Such an acceptance will greatly contribute to the success of the General Disarmament Conference, which will have full liberty to prepare the settlement of the question which is at present preoccupying the whole world.

(Signed) ZAUNIUS,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

35. **Luxemburg.**¹

Luxemburg, October 6th, 1931.

In reply to this communication², I beg to refer to my letter of March 6th, 1931. As will be seen from that letter, the Government of the Grand-Duchy has no military armaments capable of being used for purposes of war and does not propose in any way to change the present state of its armaments.

(Signed) BECH,
Minister of State,
President of the Government.

36. **Nicaragua.**³

Managua, October 22nd, 1931.

I have the honour to inform you that, although neither the army, navy nor air force of the Republic of Nicaragua is such as to arouse the apprehensions of any country on the continent, its sincere devotion to the principles of peace and justice impels it, if only by contributing the moral support of its approval, to assist in creating a world opinion determined to prevent competition in armaments and establish between States an atmosphere of mutual confidence which shall prepare the way for and ensure the complete success of the forthcoming General Disarmament Conference. Accordingly, the Government of Nicaragua is prepared, in conformity with the terms of the above-mentioned resolution and report, to accept the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly.

(Signed) Leonardo ARGÜELLO.

37. **Norway.**⁴

Oslo, October 29th, 1931.

I have the honour to inform you that the Norwegian Government is prepared to accept the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly for one year as from November 1st, 1931.

In this connection, the Norwegian Government desires to point out that Norway's total defence budget in recent years has been reduced from a budget of about 70 million crowns to a normal budget of about 45 million crowns. The present Government has no intention of exceeding this latter figure; on the contrary it has put forward a new scheme of defence organisation which provides for a further considerable reduction of the budget to about 35 million crowns. This scheme is now under discussion in Parliament. Thus, in practice, the Norwegian Government has not merely adhered to the armaments truce, but has already effected as extensive a reduction of armaments as is compatible with national security and the fulfilment of international obligations.

I have the honour to add that the Norwegian Government's acceptance of the proposed armaments truce is given without reservation as to its acceptance by other Powers.

For the Minister:
(Signed) Aug. ESMARCH,
Secretary-General.

¹ Document C.758.M.356.1931.IX.

² Circular Letter 257.1931.IX.

³ Document C.915.M.481.1931.IX.

⁴ Document C.777.M.372.1931.IX.

38. **New Zealand.**¹

October 30th, 1931.

New Zealand Government is prepared to accept the armaments truce proposed by the twelfth Assembly as indicated in your telegram, subject to its acceptance by the other States invited to the Disarmament Conference. — FORBES.

39. **Panama.**²

Paris, November 30th, 1931.

I have the honour to inform you that I have been authorised by my Government to accept in its name, in the fullest possible measure, the armaments truce proposed by the twelfth Assembly of the League of Nations in its resolution of September 29th last and referred to in your Circular Letter 257.1931.IX, of October 2nd last.

Since the Republic of Panama has been voluntarily disarmed since 1904, it could not conceivably raise the slightest objection to the proposed truce; but as your circular calls for a reply, my Government instructs me to give as affirmative and comprehensive an answer as possible.

(Signed) Narciso GARAY.

40. **Netherlands.**³

The Hague, October 28th, 1931.

I have the honour to inform you that the Netherlands Government is prepared, according to the terms of the resolution and report mentioned above, to accept the armaments truce proposed by the Assembly.

(Signed) F. BEELAERTS VAN BLOKLAND.

41. **Peru.**⁴

Geneva, November 6th, 1931.

I have the honour to inform you, on behalf of my Government, and in reply to your Circular Letter 257, dated October 2nd, that the Peruvian Government accepts in principle the armaments truce proposed by the twelfth Assembly of the League of Nations.

(Signed) J. M. BARRETO,
Accredited Representative.

42. **Persia.**⁴

Teheran, October 22nd, 1931.

During the debates of the Preparatory Disarmament Commission, the Persian delegates have several times had occasion to explain the special situation of the Persian army and the consequences involved by this situation.

Of quite recent origin and of a purely defensive character, in a country with a very limited budget, the Persian army has not yet been able to acquire the standard of organisation and the quantity of material which are essential to it, not so much to protect an immense length of frontier as to fulfil its task of keeping order in a country of vast extent and still inadequate communications.

Willing though she is to add her efforts to those of the other countries wishing to limit armaments to the minimum compatible with national security, Persia has been obliged to make the same reservations as several other delegations in connection with the limitation of the budgetary expenditure of States which, at the time of the signature of the future convention, have not yet been able to carry out their minimum defensive programme by reason notably of economic circumstances, of the purchasing power of their currency and of their industrial capacities. In our opinion, these reservations also hold good with regard to the proposal for an armaments truce. Our country is certainly not engaging in any way in the "competition in armaments" alluded to in the Council's resolution. The comparatively trifling proportion of the financial resources which

¹ Document C.778.M.373.1931.IX.

² Document C.915.M.481.1931.IX.

³ Document C.779.M.374.1931.IX.

⁴ Document C.837.M.417.1931.IX.

it devotes to its armaments and the purely defensive character of its army obviously cannot give rise for a moment to the supposition that the reservations in question can in any way hamper the speedy realisation of a programme which is in keeping with the aspirations of our own people as of those of the whole world.

(Signed) M. A. FOROUGH, I,
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

43. **Poland.**¹

Geneva, October 31st, 1931.

1. The Polish delegation to the twelfth Assembly of the League of Nations and the Polish representative at the sixty-fifth session of the Council voted in favour of the resolution concerning the armaments truce conceived in the spirit of the report attached to the said resolution.

2. The Polish Government, approving the principle of the armaments truce, associates itself entirely with the motives of the resolution of September 29th, 1931, and considers that it is extremely important to adopt the said general armaments truce, which would be likely to facilitate the very arduous task of the Disarmament Conference in the course of its debates.

3. The Polish Government will be prepared to take a final decision as soon as it has acquired the certainty that all the other Powers—particularly in the region of concern to Poland from the point of view of her security—will assume similar obligations and under the same conditions. The Polish Government emphasises that it cannot admit any ambiguity on this point and does not conceal its apprehension that, in view of the absence of mutual confidence between nations referred to in the twelfth Assembly's resolution, the vague provisions concerning the armaments truce might easily be exploited for purposes contrary to those aimed at by this resolution. The latter is completely silent on the question of sanctions in the event of non-execution of the truce and provides for no verification, which is particularly serious inasmuch as the present state of the armaments of all the Powers is not yet sufficiently known.

4. The Polish Government considers that the Disarmament Conference should place as the first point on its agenda the question of the technical details of the armaments truce.

(Signed) F. SOKAL,
*Permanent Polish Delegate
accredited to the League of Nations.*

44. **Portugal.**²

Geneva, November 2nd, 1931.

I have the honour to inform you that the Portuguese Government accepts the proposed truce in accordance with the terms of the resolution and report adopted by the Assembly.

As stated in this report, it is understood that this truce is not incompatible with the normal carrying out of legal enactments relating to effectives, the regular execution of programmes for the upkeep and renewal of land, naval and air material or fortifications, and the constitution of the corresponding stocks—so that the Portuguese Government remains free to carry out in full its programme in these directions.

(Signed) A. M. FERRAZ DE ANDRADE,
*Chief of the Portuguese
League of Nations Office.*

45. **Roumania.**³

Bucharest, October 28th, 1931.

I have the honour to inform you that the Roumanian Government accepts the principle of the armaments truce proposed in the resolution adopted on September 29th last by the Assembly of the League of Nations. The Roumanian Government is of opinion that the purport of the resolution may be found in the discussions which took place in the Third Committee and in the text of that Committee's report (document A.93.1931.IX).

In the view of the Roumanian Government, it will rest with the Disarmament Conference to examine the question in all its aspects in the hope of arriving at a full and precise text which will eliminate all chance of misunderstanding and those difficulties of interpretation which are not, it considers, wholly removed by the report or the Assembly's resolution, inasmuch as it will give full details as to the basis of the truce, its character and the obligations it entails.

¹ Document C.787.M.381.1931.IX.

² Document C.790.M.384.1931.IX.

³ Document C.777.M.372.1931.IX.

In particular, provision will have to be made, in the event of the undertakings given not being fulfilled, for penalties applicable in consequence of supervision; such supervision is absolutely necessary, but must not be illusory and must apply under identical conditions to all States Members and non-members of the League.

The Roumanian Government is convinced that the armaments truce cannot in any way influence the essential conditions of security demanded by Roumania's special geographical position.

(Signed) D. J. GHICA,
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

46. **Siam.**¹

London, October 27th, 1931.

Under telegraphic instructions from His Highness Prince Devawongs, I have the honour to inform you that His Majesty's Government is ready to accept the truce in armaments proposed by the twelfth Assembly in accordance with the terms of the above-mentioned resolution.

(Signed) DAMRAS,
Siamese Minister.

47. **Sweden.**²

Stockholm, October 30th, 1931.

I have the honour to inform you that His Majesty's Government agrees to the armaments truce contemplated in the resolution and defined in the report—that is to say, it undertakes to refrain for one year, as from November 1st, 1931, from making any measure which would involve an increase in the total present armaments of Sweden.

(Signed) RAMEL,
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

48. **Switzerland.**³

Berne, October 27th, 1931.

We have the honour to inform you that the Federal Council is prepared to accept for a period of one year from November 1st, 1931, the armaments truce as provided for in the resolution and report of the Assembly of September 29th, on condition that the States bordering on Switzerland accept the same obligation and subject to the understanding that the carrying out by our country of the programmes already finally decided on by the competent authorities, such as the increase of our military aircraft and the organisation of the Fifth Mountain Brigade, is in no way incompatible with the above-mentioned resolution.

(Signed) MOTTA,
Federal Political Department.

49. **Czechoslovakia.**⁴

Prague, October 27th, 1931.

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic accepts the armaments truce referred to in the resolution and defined in the report mentioned above—that is to say, that it undertakes for a period of one year from November 1st, 1931, and subject to the terms of the report, not to increase the effort now being made by Czechoslovakia as regards the whole of her armaments.

(Signed) Eduard BENEŠ.

50. **Turkey.**⁵

Ankara, November 7th, 1931.

The Government of the Republic, which has given so many proofs of its attachment to the cause of peace, has never taken any part in the competition in armaments. It is on friendly and cordial terms with all its neighbours, and having already concluded agreements on naval armaments

¹ Document C.775.M.370.1931.IX.

² Document C.777.M.372.1931.IX.

³ Document C.771.M.366.1931.IX.

⁴ Document C.774.M.369.1931.IX.

⁵ Document C.908.M.476.1931.IX.

with Greece and Russia it has been able to effect considerable reductions in its national defence budget. The military programme which it is carrying out at present only covers its minimum requirements in the matter of defence, and it does not propose to make any increase in its armaments in general outside its existing programme.

I would also mention one very important fact—namely, that Turkey, who has voluntarily restricted her military preparations, is not among the Powers that have already completed their preparations and at the same time possess stocks of materials sufficient for many years and also war industries.

Turkey has been strongly in favour of the gradual reduction of armaments, in accordance with the principles consistently advocated by her delegates in the Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference. At the last meeting of the Third Committee of the Assembly, in which we took part in an advisory capacity, our delegate explained the Turkish Government's views in regard to the armaments truce. I should, however, emphasise the fact that, not having participated on a footing of equality in the discussion and voting on the proposal in question, Turkey requires further information as regards both the juridical character of the said proposal and the extent and scope that it is to have. Under our Constitution, the Grand National Assembly is the only authority competent to take a decision in cases which concern the forces employed in national defence. It rests with that body, therefore, to examine and accept an International Convention. Accordingly any obligation affecting the said forces must first receive its approval. It was impossible for the Government of the Republic to take any decision with regard to the armaments truce, as proposed by the League Assembly, before consulting the Grand Assembly, which met on the first of this month.

Directly I receive the information which I am asking you to be good enough to send me, I will, of course, lay it before my Government, which will, I feel sure, submit it to the Grand National Assembly for consideration and approval.

(Signed) Dr. TEVFIK RÜSTÜ.

51. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.¹

Moscow, October 21st, 1931.

I have received your letter of October 2nd with enclosed reports concerning the question of the armaments truce agreed to by the League Assembly. By telegram of September 21st, I have already had the honour to inform you that my Government would be prepared to enter, simultaneously with the other Governments and on the same basis, into an undertaking not to increase its armaments throughout the duration of the Disarmament Conference. It is prepared to agree to the period of one year from November 1st as now proposed or to disarm entirely or to accept the maximum limitation of armaments in accordance with the proposals and draft Conventions submitted by me to the Preparatory Disarmament Commission. It must, however, be perfectly clear that similar declarations will be made by all Governments and will be binding on them with the force of an international convention. It must also be perfectly clear whether the undertaking concerns armaments of every kind, both effectives and war material. The resolution adopted by the Assembly likewise leaves some doubt as to the acceptance or rejection of the reservations made by certain Governments in the Third Committee establishing exceptions. Unless these points are made quite clear or unless every Government is left free to interpret as it chooses the scope of the undertakings it has given, it seems absolutely incontestable that there will be no hope of avoiding mutual recriminations and accusations which will by no means contribute to create that atmosphere of confidence for the Conference to which reference is made in the report. The vague and indefinite character of the League's decisions and international obligations is one of the causes of the deplorable events now taking place in Manchuria, which obviously cannot strengthen the atmosphere of confidence. In any event, my Government is willing, when these points have been properly cleared up, to enter into an undertaking regarding an armaments truce on the same basis as all other countries. — LITVINOFF.

52. Uruguay.²

Montevideo, November 3rd, 1931.

I have the honour to inform you that Uruguay accepts the proposal for an armaments truce with a single reservation relating to the air material at present being acquired for replacement purposes. — Juan Carlos BLANCO, *Minister for Foreign Affairs*.

¹ Document C.748.M.347.1931.IX.

² Document C.796.M.390.1931.IX.

53. Venezuela.¹

Caracas, October 29th, 1931.

I have the honour to inform you that my Government does not intend and sees no need, for the moment, to increase its means of defence and is prepared accordingly to accept the "armaments truce" referred to in the aforesaid communication.

(Signed) P. ITRIAGO CHACIN.

54. Yugoslavia.²

Belgrade, October 29th, 1931.

The Government of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, having considered the report and resolution of the Assembly of the League of Nations dated September 29th, 1931, regarding the one-year's armaments truce, declares that from November 1st, 1931, to October 31st, 1932, it will refrain from increasing its armaments. In order, however, to obviate any possible misunderstanding, the Royal Government desires to make it clear that it interprets the truce in accordance with the last sentence of the fifth paragraph of the fifth section of the first part of the report of the Third Committee of the League of Nations and in accordance with the sixth paragraph of the same section of that report (document A.93.1931.IX, dated September 29th, 1931). Thus, for example, the Royal Government does not regard the truce as affecting the normal execution of its naval programme. Since the present Yugoslav navy is far below any limit that the Disarmament Conference could establish, it follows that the very modest building contemplated for the period here under consideration would not really in any sense represent an exception to the truce.

(Signed) V. MARINKOVITCH,
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

V.

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, DATED NOVEMBER 14TH, 1931,
TO ALL STATES INVITED TO THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.³

Under cover of my Circular Letter 257, I had the honour to send you the report relating to the armaments truce, adopted by the Council on September 30th last.

The last paragraph of this report authorises me to take, in consultation with the President of the Council, such measures as may be necessary to forward to you the replies of the various Governments invited to the Disarmament Conference, so as to enable your Government to consider the said replies and to take a final decision on the matter.

I have sent you all the replies which have reached me to date.

The President of the Council, whom I have consulted on this subject, is of opinion, after consideration of these replies, that he is justified in concluding:

That none of the Governments are opposed to the truce and that, on the contrary, all have declared their willingness to accept it;

That a number of Governments make their acceptance conditional upon reciprocity and that such reciprocity has, in fact, been achieved;

Finally, that many of the replies contain interpretations and observations, but that these interpretations and observations appear to be in keeping with the spirit and the letter of the resolution and report.

In these circumstances, the President of the Council is of opinion that the procedure which would be most in harmony with the objects of the truce and the spirit of the twelfth Assembly's discussions on this subject, and which, moreover, would avoid the delay involved in a further consultation of the Governments concerned, would be to consider, unless and in so far as Governments do not forthwith intimate any objection to this course, that the armaments truce has, under the conditions laid down in the resolution and the report adopted by the Assembly on September 29th last, been accepted for one year as from November 1st, 1931, by the Governments invited to the Disarmament Conference.

(Signed) ERIC DRUMMOND,
Secretary-General.

¹ Document C.924.M.489.1931.IX.

² Document C.777.M.372.1931.IX.

³ C.L.293.1931.IX.