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Geneva, September 26th, 1930.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

**GENERAL CONVENTION TO STRENGTHEN THE MEANS  
OF PREVENTING WAR.**

**REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE TO THE ASSEMBLY.**

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In its resolution of September 24th, 1929, the Assembly invited the Council to request the Committee on Arbitration and Security to consider whether it would be possible to prepare a draft General Convention on the lines of the model treaty to strengthen the means of preventing war. At its fourth session, held at Geneva from April 28th to May 9th, 1930, the Committee on Arbitration and Security dealt with this question at considerable length.

It appeared from the discussions which took place in the Committee that the transformation of the model treaty into a General Convention raised a certain number of problems of great importance and of an extremely delicate nature. As regards some of these problems, the Committee succeeded in reconciling the various points of view ; but, in the case of others, and in particular the problem of the more or less compulsory character of the military measures recommended by the Council and that of supervision and sanctions, it was unable to make unanimous proposals. It has, therefore, only prepared a preliminary draft Convention, in which Articles 2, 3 and 3bis are given in two different columns representing the two main tendencies. When this matter was brought before it, the Third Committee entered upon a general exchange of views. After this discussion, it instructed a special Committee to consider the various viewpoints that had been expressed, and to endeavour to bring to light certain common features.

This special Committee discussed the principles of the preliminary draft exhaustively and in a most conciliatory spirit.

In accordance with the special Committee's proposals, the Third Committee reached the following conclusions :

(1) The Committee is of opinion that, in principle, it would be advantageous to transform the model treaty into a General Convention to strengthen the means of preventing war.

(2) The Committee was unanimous in regard to the provisions given in Article 1 of the preliminary draft concerning the conservatory measures of a non-military nature which the Council may recommend the contracting parties to take.

(3) With regard to Article 2 of the preliminary draft, the Committee considered that this article might embody provisions to ensure the integral application of Article 11 of the Covenant, with a view to the prevention of war by making binding on all contracting parties the Council's recommendations for the avoidance of direct contact between the opposing forces, and for the avoidance of incidents at a time when relations between the States concerned in any dispute have become so strained that, in the opinion of the Council, there is a threat of war.

(4) The Committee likewise considered that the Convention should provide for a supervision of the measures which, in the cases mentioned in Article 2, would be decreed by the Council (Article 3 of the preliminary draft).

(5) Lastly, in view of the fact that the scheme was limited to the prevention of war, as mentioned in Article 11 of the Covenant, the Committee felt that it should be understood that the question of the methods of applying Article 16 of the Covenant would remain intact, and that, on the other hand, the proposed Convention would result in facilitating such application.

The Committee came to the conclusion that the formulation of the above-mentioned principles in a clearly defined text would call for further prolonged and exhaustive study, for a number of delicate questions of a technical nature would have to be solved.

Under these circumstances, the Committee proposes that the Assembly should request the Council to form a special Committee to re-consider this question in the light of the principles adopted by the Committee, and to submit its report to the Council for discussion at the next session of the Assembly.

The Committee therefore requests the Assembly to adopt the following resolution :

“ The Assembly :

“ Having considered the preliminary draft General Convention to Strengthen the Means of Preventing War, drawn up by the Committee on Arbitration and Security during its fourth session, held at Geneva in April and May 1930 ;

“ Being aware that the study of the question so far has shown that the transformation of the ‘ model treaty ’ into a General Convention raises numerous and delicate problems;

“ Recognising, however, the degree of progress already made in reconciling the different points of view in regard to the preparation of the text of a ‘ General Convention ’:

“ Decides that the study of this question should be continued, and consequently requests the Council to appoint a special Committee to draw up a report in sufficient time for submission to the twelfth ordinary session of the Assembly.”

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