

PROFESSOR ATTOLICO

99/16250/+
VIII

This draft will, I think, do admirably for all letters on which it is certain that no further action will be taken. I presume that it is not intended for use in any other cases?

I understand that there is to be a Committee to make recommendations as to the new arrangements about answering letters. I feel sure that in its discussions it will find that a large number of exceptions must be made to the general rule of sending a Registry acknowledgment. Such exceptions would presumably include all communications from Governments; Minorities and Mandates petitions; communications from Presidents, etc. of League Commissions whether temporary or standing; communications from the B.I.T. and the Permanent Court, and no doubt a number of others. Even if the rule were made that this system should apply only to communications from private persons, some exceptions would be required. Another possible form of the rule would be that it should be used only in cases where the communication did not obviously fall within the sphere of any Section; but personally I am inclined to think that all that was really needed was to have drafted this new and still more non-committal form of acknowledgment, to be used when required.

ASN: 29/16250
16250; R. 1458

Howard
May I see
you please
WA

J.P. Walker

22nd December 1926.

WA

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REVISION
COPY

RECEIVED IN
REGISTRY

27 NOV-1926

16250/f
or there

I should like the following points to be considered at a Directors' meeting:

The Secretariat frequently receives communications from individuals or organisations asking that the Secretary-General should take action at the instance of such individuals or organisations which he is not competent to take. A general description of the practice followed by the Secretariat in reply to requests of this kind, which ask that a matter should be submitted to the Council or other organ of the League, is given on pages 3 and 4 of Confidential Circular 20, 1926.

The point which seems to me to call for special consideration is what reply, if any, should be sent to the writers of communications of an inflammatory nature, e.g., communications attacking the Government of a Member of the League in violent language.

One of three courses is possible:

- 1) to send a reply (which would normally be in the third ~~question~~ *person*) stating that the League is not competent in the matter.
- 2) to send a formal printed acknowledgment of receipt (see form attached);
- 3) to send no reply at all.

E.D.