

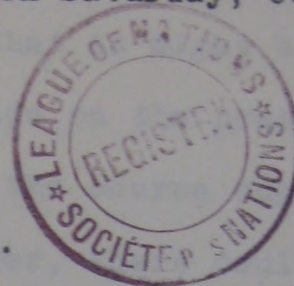
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SIXTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL.

MINUTES

of the Third Secret Meeting, held on Saturday, October 15th,
1932, at 10 p.m.



President: Mr. Sean LESTER.

Present: All the representatives of the Members
of the Council, and the Secretary-General.

Czechoslovakia was represented by M. OSUSKI, Norway
by M. HAMBRO, Poland by M. GWIAZDOWSKI and Spain by M.
HURTADO.

ELECTION OF NEW SECRETARY-GENERAL IN SUCCESSION TO SIR
ERIC DRUMMOND.

The PRESIDENT reminded the Council that Article 6,
paragraph 2, of the Covenant was the article applicable to
the election of the new Secretary-General. Under the Rules
of Procedure, Article 9, the ^{election} ~~Secretary-General~~ must ~~be~~ take place
~~elected~~ by a secret ballot at a private meeting.

M. HAMBRO raised a point of order. He had understood
that the Council had met in secret merely to discuss the
question of the election of the new Secretary-General.
It would be difficult, he thought, for the Council to take
a decision until the Assembly had discussed and voted the
budget and the resolutions adopted by the Fourth Committee
with regard to the principal officers of the Secretariat.
He would have no objection to a provisional vote, but

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would point out that a report that the Council had taken a final decision as to the new Secretary-General would create a very painful impression among the other delegations to the Assembly.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that it might be that owing to the particular arrangement made on the present occasion ~~it might~~ ^{which might well} be advisable to follow the course suggested by M. Hambro. Constitutionally, however, there could be no doubt that the Council was entitled to nominate the new Secretary-General at any time, subject to the Assembly's subsequent approval. There was no rule that the Assembly must pass the budget before the Council proceeded to the appointment.

M. HAMBRO agreed. As however the Secretary-General had himself hinted, a special arrangement had been concluded on this particular occasion. It was not so much a question of the adoption of the budget but of the resolutions which had been passed that afternoon and which formed a whole. It was necessary to consider the feelings of those delegations which were not Members of the Council and which had not had representatives on the Sub-Committee of 15. The election of the new Secretary-General was a matter to which they naturally attached the greatest importance, and if the first intimation they had of the election ~~of a new Secretary-General~~ was a report in the papers on Monday morning, objections would undoubtedly be raised in the Assembly.

M. von ROSENBERG understood that M. Hambro's objections referred not to any question of substance but to one of procedure. There undoubtedly were special circumstances



in the present case and therefore it would perhaps be wiser, from the practical standpoint, to await the Assembly's approval of the budget and the resolutions referred to.

M. HAMBRO suggested that if the Council proceeded to an exchange of views and took an informal vote that evening, it could meet again five minutes after the Assembly on Monday and take a formal decision.

M. NAGAOKA observed that in any case the Council's vote could not become effective at once, as it had to have the approval of the majority of the Assembly.

Baron ALOISI thought that the Council could proceed immediately to the appointment of the new Secretary-General but hold over the announcement until after the Assembly's meeting on Monday.

Mr. EDEN agreed.

M. HAMBRO repeated that he would not object to a provisional vote being taken immediately, but urged that no public announcement must be made until the Assembly had voted the Fourth Committee's resolutions.

M. von ROSENBERG asked whether it would be constitutional to have a provisional vote. M. Hambro had suggested that the vote should be contingent upon the Assembly's approval of the budget and the Fourth Committee's resolutions; was it possible to make a conditional appointment?



The SECRETARY-GENERAL thought there was nothing against such a procedure.

The PRESIDENT noted that the Council agreed to take at the present meeting a provisional vote, which would be conditional upon the Assembly's approving the resolutions of the Fourth Committee, and would be confirmed after the Assembly's meeting on Monday.

M. HAMBRO inferred that the Council did not propose to hold any discussion. He desired to say, on behalf of his Government, that the latter had considered that it would be natural, on the occasion of the first election of a Secretary-General, to discuss certain principles, e.g. whether the Council should appoint an official already serving with the League, or bring in fresh blood, and whether he should be a national of one of the permanent Members of the Council or of a non-permanent Member. If his observations were recorded in the minutes, he would be willing not to press his point, on the understanding that the course set out in the arrangement concluded in the Fourth Committee was loyally followed.

The PRESIDENT considered that the Norwegian representative's remarks were justified. But for the lengthy discussions which had been held in the last ten days, it might perhaps have been desirable to discuss, at the present meeting, the points which M. Hambro had raised. If, however, any Members of the Council who had not been members of the Subcommittee of 15 desired an immediate discussion, he was entirely prepared to give them permission to do so.

M. van ROSENBERG desired the following statement to be recorded in the Minutes: He was glad to be able to say

that Germany would comply with the arrangement concluded in the Sub-Committee of 15. He agreed with M. Hambro that the aim to be followed - at all events it was the aim pursued by Germany - was to obtain the greatest possible measure of internationalisation, not only as regards the head of the Secretariat, but among the whole of the high ~~officials~~ ^{officials} ~~direction~~. That was the sense in which the German delegation had approved the resolutions which would come before the Assembly on Monday.

BERENGER

M. ~~Paganon~~ entirely agreed with the German representative. His delegation's opinion was that the League should become more and more internationalised; that indeed had been the object of all its proposals. It desired, however, something more than internationalisation: France would welcome a greater measure of intercontinentalisation. If the world were to be saved, it would be by the development of the interdependence of the various continents. Any proposals in that sense were assured of the French delegation's ready support. M. ~~Paganon~~ ^{Berenger} felt certain that the views expressed by the German representative were shared by all Members of the Council. He therefore hoped that the Council would, that evening, take a unanimous vote which would be confirmed ~~by~~ ^{after} the Assembly on Monday.

M. HURTADO regretted M. de MADARIAGA's inability to attend the present meeting. He knew that M. de Madariaga would have expressed his satisfaction at the arrangement which had been arrived at, seeing that it tended towards the internationalisation which all Members desired.

The Council then proceeded to a provisional vote for the appointment of the new Secretary-General, on the understanding that the appointment would be conditional upon the Assembly's approval of the Fourth Committee's resolutions concerning the principal officers of the Secretariat, and would be confirmed at another meeting of the Council to be held immediately after the next meeting of the Assembly.

The provision of the first place & M. Avenol was unanimously chosen.

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COUNCIL.

M. Hambro having raised the question of the rules of procedure of the Council
On the proposal of the Secretary-General the Council decided to authorise the President to appoint a small committee to draw up draft rules of procedure, based on the procedure which is at present current in Council meetings, the draft rules to be placed on the Agenda of the Council's next Session. *The Secretary General was instructed to prepare a draft for the use of the Committee, when constituted.*

The Council rose.

M. Beigbeder then expressed his appreciation of the decision of his colleagues & explained that he regarded the appointment as in no sense national but strictly international. He paid a tribute to the present Secretary General's work.