Expéditeur: Majo. General Thwaites.  
Date: Nov. 3

Sujet: League of Nations and Military Requirements.  
1. Inquiries on behalf of Field Marshal Sir H. Wilson as to:
   (a) When the League will start work.  
   (b) Permanent Headquarters.  
   (c) Military Staff.

Pour Distribution, éventuelle, voir feuille bleue à l'intérieur. For Distribution, if any, see blue paper within.

Tout commentaire sera inscrit sur la feuille blanche à l'intérieur.

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<td>Capt. Netter</td>
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It seems an important point what name the "military" commission shall be called. Act 9 of the Covenant leaves that question open.

I doubt whether "Permanent Naval, Military and Air Commission" is the name that will become popular or make the League popular. It will, on the contrary, suggest to the public that the League is in business with military preparations and plans.

I wonder if a name like "Permanent Commission of Limitation of Armaments, and other Military, Naval and air questions" would be as well received as the present one? It is quite as good as far as the Covenant is concerned, for act 9 speaks on the first article of the Covenant, the application of article 18, and they refer to reduction of armaments.

It seems to be the moment to fix the name of the Commission.

W. X. 1919

Vandameul

Having suffered a lot from the length of the report of various committee visits, I have been suggested "Armaments Commission." It seems to me to cover the duties of the Commission and be short and easy to remember.

Abadan.

I like the last suggestion. Authorize to U.S. & 9 December for any other they may care to express.

E.K.

19.11.19
Mr. Monnet agrees with Dr. van Damel that, in naming the "Military" Commission it would be desirable to remove, as far as possible, all suggestion of military preparations and plans from the public mind. The shorter the title the better - when possible, but it might be well to modify Major Reuter's proposal to "Limitation or Reduction of Armaments Commission." 

G. E. Dixon.

2. 11. 19

To my foreign armaments reduction commission (A.R.C.) sounds good.

J.W. 22. 11. 19.

I agree with Dr. Hobe 1930.

I also. E.C.

15. 11. 19.

Major Bueche 1930 - no world war comes about and ends 1914.

26. 11. 19.

I concern with the view of Dr. Van Haelen and M. Monnet. The word "limitation" or "reduction" seems to me to be indispensable in the title.
If I may venture to resume the various opinions that have been expressed, the S's, U.S's, and Directors all agree that a short title for the "Military Commission" is desirable, whilst the idea of being in the principal duty of the Commission, to prepare for reduction of armaments, has also been favorably received.

The title "Armament Commission" is certainly compact, short, and correct, but does not at all point in the opposite direction, from the point that is of special importance, namely, the limitation of armaments? That would be aptly.

The S's may like to have the matter discussed at the Wednesday meeting.

The name, subject to M. Monnet: Limitation (or Reduction) of Armament Commission, was by Mr. Vitale. Armament, Reduction, Commission; will have to be considered.

The term of the Covenant (art. 1) is: reduction of armaments, but perhaps "limitation" sounds better.

Although no judge of English, I should freely prefer "Limitation of Armament, Commission."

Would this make the military people unhappy? Would they think the scope of action of the Commission too much "limited," and unduly "reduced"?

Vandamme

2. Xll. '19

I am inclined to adhere to "Armament Commission" simply. Any one who has any idea of the first principles of the League will realize that this phrase indicates "Reduction. The two titles suggest a mighty effort simply a too narrow scope for the Commission.
Sunderland House,
Curzon Street, W.I.
10th November, 1919.

Dear Thwaites,

If, as I think likely, the members of the Permanent Naval, Military, and Air Commission will represent their respective Governments, as in the case of members of the Council of the League, it will clearly be for the British Government to decide what staff the British member would require, and I fear I am not competent to advise. As the C.I.G.S., First Sea Lord and Chief of the Air Staff when they met, recommended that most of the intelligence &c. work should be done at home, I should have thought that two or three officers would be all that is needed, of whom one, perhaps, should be of sufficient standing to be able to deputize in case of need.

Yours sincerely,

ED

Major General Sir W. Thwaites, K.C.B.,
WAR OFFICE.
7th November 1919.

Dear Drummond,

Many thanks for your letter of the 5th inst.

I am afraid I did not make myself quite clear: it is the Military Commission of the League of Nations with which we are concerned.

The C.I.G.S. now understands that an officer of high rank will be required and the question of what staff he will need now arises. That he must have a staff is obvious. Can you kindly let me know what

(1) / is
is in contemplation as regards this matter.

Yrs sincerely,

[Signature]

The Hon. Sir E. Drummond, K.C.M.G., C.B.,
Sunderland House,
Curzon Street,
W.1.
Sunderland House,  
Curzon Street,  

November 5th, 1919.

Dear Thwaites,

Your letter of November 3rd.

The League of Nations will start work as soon as the Treaty comes into force which, according to latest information, will probably be about the 25th of this month. Its headquarters are according to the terms of the Covenant to be at Geneva but of course much depends on whether Switzerland becomes a member of the League and it may be found desirable perhaps to have temporary headquarters elsewhere on the Continent.

I do not anticipate that, apart from the personnel of the Permanent Naval, Military and Air Commission any military staff will be asked for. That Commission, as you know, will have immensely important duties, including that of advising the Council of the League on the military necessities of States applying for admission to the League, of recommending to the Council what steps towards reduction of armaments through international agreement are possible and desirable, and generally giving advice to the League on all military matters.

My personal opinion is, that the greater the position of the British military member of the Commission, the better. He will probably have as his colleagues officers of high rank of other nationalities and it is important that his views should carry full weight as no doubt they will be those of the War Office.

Yours sincerely,

8

Major General Sir W. Thwaites, K.C.B.,  
War Office,  
S.W.1.
Dear Thwaites,

Your letter of November 3rd.

The League of Nations will start work as soon as the Treaty comes into force which, according to latest information, will probably be about the 25th of this month. Its headquarters will eventually be established at Geneva, but possibly for the next year or two it may prove desirable to find temporary quarters elsewhere on the Continent. I do not anticipate that, apart from the personnel of the Permanent Naval, Military and Air Commission any military staff will be asked for. That Commission, as you know, will have immensely important duties, including that of advising the Council of the League on the military necessities of States applying for admission to the League, of recommending to the Council what steps towards reduction of armaments through international agreement are possible and desirable, and generally giving advice to the League on all military matters.

My personal opinion is, that the greater the position of the

Major General W. Thwaites, C.B. British
British military member of the Commission, the better. If he is
not an officer of High rank, I am afraid lest the views of the War Office
carry may not receive due weight, for I think it is rather apt to happen
full weight as to doubt the influence of the War Office.

in strictly military committees that the views of members are listened
d to, to some extent, in proportion to their rank.

Yours sincerely,
3rd November 1919.

Dear Drummond,

Field Marshal Sir E. Wilson is very anxious to know, as soon as possible, when the League of Nations is going to start work.

He would also like to know where its headquarters is going to be established and what military staff, it is anticipated, will be asked for. In this connection he would be glad to learn whether an officer of the rank of Major General will be required.

Yrs sincerely,

[Signature]

The Hon: Sir E. Drummond, K.C.M.G., C.B.,
Sunderland House,
Curzon Street, W.1.