

While I am in complete sympathy with the desire expressed in this memorandum to produce at as early a date as possible some concrete scheme for a reduction of armaments, the question requires most careful handling <sup>which</sup> and arouses violent national feeling.

I am in consultation with the French Government as to the best method of securing advice as to how the Permanent Military, Naval and Air Commission to be formed under Article IX can best be constituted. Personally, I favour an extended Versailles. It will be the first business of the Permanent Commission to formulate plans for disarmament and I think although the procedure may be somewhat slow and cumbersome, we had better adhere to it more particularly as it has been adopted in the Covenant.

I should be very glad if Lord Robert Cecil would give his opinion on the subject.

R.D.

July 5th.

I agree we must stick to the procedure laid down in the Covenant. But I doubt if we shall get much out of Versailles, extended or otherwise. When opportunity serves the P. M. should certainly be sounded as to his views. Not much can be done in France till after the approaching election

Robert Cecil

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