COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL

Memorandum by Viscount Cecil of Chelwood.

Viscount Cecil of Chelwood has the honour to distribute to his colleagues on the Committee of the Council, the attached extracts from certain Treaties and documents bearing on the obligation to disarm.

A.

EXTRACT FROM ARTICLE 6 OF THE COVENANT OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

The Members of the League recognise that the maintenance of peace requires the reduction of national armaments to the lowest point consistent with national safety, and the enforcement by common action of international obligations.

The Council, taking account of the geographical situation and circumstances of each State, shall formulate plans for such reduction for the consideration and action of the several Governments.

Such plans shall be subject to reconsideration and revision at least every ten years.

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B.

EXTRACT FROM THE TREATIES OF PEACE.

MILITARY, NAVAL AND AIR CLAUSES.

In order to render possible the initiation of a general limitation of the armaments of all nations ......... undertakes strictly to observe the military, naval and air clauses which follow.
(Provisional Translation)

EXTRACT FROM THE REPLY OF THE ALLIED AND ASSOCIATED POWERS TO THE OBSERVATIONS OF THE GERMAN DELEGATION AS TO CONDITIONS OF PEACE.

(Letter of the President of the Peace Conference to the President of the German Delegation, dated 16th June, 1919)

PART V.
MILITARY, NAVAL AND AIR CLAUSES
SECTION I.

MILITARY CLAUSES.

I.

The Allied and Associated Powers point out that the conditions laid down in regard to the armaments of Germany... constitute the first step towards that general reduction and limitation of armaments which the said Powers seek to achieve as being one of the best means of preventing warfare, a reduction and limitation of armaments the fostering of which the League of Nations will have as one of its chief duties.

SECTION II

NAVAL CLAUSES

All these Articles have been carefully drawn up and must be unconditionally accepted. They are based on the desire for a general limitation of armaments by all nations, while at the same time leaving Germany with such naval forces as are necessary for her own protection and for police services.

D.

EXTRACT FROM THE FINAL PROTOCOL OF TREATY OF LIOHEREO

They undertake to give their sincere cooperation to the work relating to disarmament already undertaken by the League of Nations and to seek the realisation thereof in a general agreement.