

and it is not usual that rights established by an instrument which has been ratified should be varied by a mere exchange of notes.

The terms of the fifth paragraph of the Senate Resolution necessitate further examination before they could safely be accepted by the States which are parties to the Protocol of 1920. This paragraph is capable of bearing an interpretation which would hamper the work of the Council and prejudice the rights of Members of the League, but it is not clear that it was intended to bear any such meaning. The correct interpretation of this paragraph of the Resolution should be the subject of discussion and agreement with the United States Government.

It should not be difficult to frame a new agreement giving satisfaction to the wishes of the United States Government, if an opportunity could be obtained for discussing with a representative of that Government the various questions raised by the terms of the Senate Resolution. To any such new agreement the States which have signed the Protocol of December 16th, 1920, and the United States Government would be parties.

I suggest that the most convenient course would be to propose to all the Governments which have received from the United States Government a copy of the Senate Resolution that a reply should be made indicating the difficulty of proceeding by way of a mere exchange of notes and the need of a general agreement. An invitation might also be addressed by the Council to all these Governments and to the Government of the United States to appoint a delegation to participate in the discussions as proposed above and in the framing of a new agreement at a meeting to be held here on September 1st of the current year.

The Council adopted the proposals of the British representative.

You will observe from this extract that the Council, desirous of facilitating common action by the signatories of the Protocol in question with regard to the adhesion of the United States to that instrument, and after consideration of the technical aspects of the subject, has taken a decision that invitations shall be issued to the Governments of the States actually signatories of the Protocol and to the Government of the United States to appoint delegations to meet in Geneva on September 1st of the current year for the purpose of discussing any questions which it may be proper for them to discuss in this connection, and for the purpose of framing any new agreement which may be found necessary to give effect to the special conditions on which the United States are prepared to adhere to the Protocol.

Under the terms of the Council's decision the invitation to the meeting is addressed to the signatory States in their capacity as such signatories and to the United States of America. I have conveyed the invitation to the Governments of the former States.

I have now the honour to convey to you the above invitation of the Council for consideration by your Government, and to request that you will be so good as to inform me whether your Government will find it possible to be represented at the meeting in question.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) ERIC DRUMMOND.

SECRETARY-GENERAL.