The Commission of the League of Nations.
Meeting of February 4, 1919.
Presided over by President Wilson;

The Commission met for the second meeting at Hotel Crillon at 8:30 P.M., 4 February 1919.

The Commission entered upon the consideration of the Draft Covenant;

The Preamble was provisionally passed, subject to the understanding, arrived at on the motion of Monsieur Bourgeois, that it would be open to the Commission to reconsider it later after the Articles had been examined; and subject also to an amendment proposed by Lord Robert Cecil and accepted by the Commission to transfer the words, "In order to promote international co-operation" to the beginning of the Preamble as follows, "In order to promote international co-operation and to secure international peace ---.

A discussion followed on the title of the International Body to be established; various preferences were expressed for the words, "Society", "Union", "League", "States" and "Nations" respectively. It was generally agreed that there was no object to be gained by altering the formula endorsed by popular usage in each language.

Monsieur Hymans brought forward the request made for representation on the Commission of four other Powers, Czecho-Slovaks, Greece, Poland and Rumania which had been referred to the Commission by the Conference. After discussion it was agreed that the new members should be admitted and President Wilson undertook to convey this decision to the Conference.
The Commission then proceeded to the discussion of the Articles of the Draft.

Article I.

After some discussion on the point raised by Monsieur Bourgeois as to whether the meetings of the Body of Delegates should be periodical or permanent, Article 1 was adopted, subject to the omission of the words, "Representing the States more immediately concerned in the matter under discussion."

Article II.

The following amendments proposed by Lord Robert Cecil were adopted:

In the second paragraph after the words, "Not more than two representatives" down to the end of the third paragraph, substitute the words, "The Ambassadors or Ministers of the High Contracting Parties at ---------- unless other representatives are specially appointed for this purpose."

After the words, "Body of Delegates" in the fourth paragraph, insert in each case the words, "Or the Executive Council."

In the same paragraph after the words, "Those present", substitute the words, "The States represented."

On the motion of President Wilson the words "At stated intervals and" were added after the word, "held" in the first line of the Article.

Before proceeding to the consideration of Article 3, Lord Robert Cecil asked that the question of the representation of the British Dominions should be reserved for subsequent discussion.
Article III.

A prolonged discussion took place regarding the representation of Powers other than the Great Powers on the Executive Council of the League. Monsieur Hynans, Monsieur Vesnitch, Mr. Koo, Monsieur Reis emphasized the claims of the smaller Powers to adequate representation on the Council, and these claims were endorsed by Monsieur Bourgeois and Monsieur Orlando. Lord Robert Cecil doubted the advisability of enlarging the membership of the Executive Council, but proposed that as the consensus of opinion on the Commission was against him, the discussion should be adjourned until the next meeting when a new Draft of Article 3 could be presented for the consideration of the Commission;

The Commission accordingly adjourned, the next meeting being fixed for the following evening at 8:30 P.M.

The text of the Preamble and Articles 1 and 2 as adopted is contained in the Annex;

(Joint Secretaries of the Commission appointed February 5th).