

15th January, 1936.

Sanctions PositionExtension of Export Embargo to cover Oil, Coal, Steel.

A meeting of the Council of the League is to be held on January 20th; the Committee of Eighteen may meet a few days later, though no decision has yet been taken. The British Government is in principle prepared to support an extension of sanctions, and has completed, at the cost of various counter-commitments, negotiations with France and other Mediterranean Powers for assistance in case of Italian attack. At the same time it appears unlikely that England will press for an extension of sanctions at present unless France is prepared to take the same action. France in turn passes the buck to the United States, and suggests awaiting the final form of the new neutrality legislation in the United States. This new legislation will undoubtedly make the prohibition of the export of arms to any belligerent mandatory. It will probably include a provision for limiting to the peace time level exports of materials helpful for military operations, such as steel, oil and cotton, and make this restriction applicable to both belligerents regardless of any distinction between victim and aggressor, but it is not yet certain whether the application of this prohibition will be mandatory or left to the discretion of the President. The revelations now being made before the

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