

The Model Treaty would not have been resuscitated had it not been for a resolution submitted by Lord Cecil, in which he asked that the Model Treaty be reshaped into a draft general Convention which could be referred to Governments in time to enable the latter to indicate, at the Eleventh Session of the Assembly, whether they were prepared to accept it.

Lord Cecil in presenting his resolution explained that the broad object of the Treaty was to strengthen the hands of the Council in their duty to prevent war breaking out: the method suggested in the Treaty was that as many States as possible—Members of the League or not—should agree to accept beforehand the directions of the Council for the carrying out of Article II. In order to bring this about, he was proposing that the Treaty be changed from a Model Treaty into a general Convention open for general signature, and to this end he suggested that it be referred to the Committee on Arbitration and Security, which could review it to ensure that it was in all respects fit for such a purpose.

Count Bernstorff, very naturally, welcomed Lord Cecil's resolution because the latter embodied a suggestion which originally was contained in a German proposal submitted by Herr Von Simson. The French, Japanese and Italian Delegations, which during the Third Session of the Committee on Arbitration and Security had been opposed to the idea of a general Convention, were not in favour of Lord Cecil's proposal, but did not go the length of actually refusing to accept the suggestion of referring the matter to the Committee on Arbitration and Security. M. Sato (Japan) reminded the Committee, however, that the Japanese Delegation had assisted in the preparation of the Model Treaty on the understanding that it was not to be of a general character.

The Assembly accepted Lord Cecil's suggestion and the Council, giving effect to the Assembly's recommendation, instructed the President of the Committee on Arbitration and Security to summon, in due course, the latter Committee in order to consider the possibility of establishing a draft General Convention on the general lines of the Treaty.

6. *Communications affecting the working of the League in Times of emergency: facilities to be given aircraft*

The International Commission for Air Navigation (Paris), which is not a body coming directly under the League of Nations, has been considering for some time past, and notably at its last Session, the question of the special legal status of aircraft employed to maintain aerial communications of importance to the operation of the League. The work of the Air Navigation Commission, in this respect, is not yet complete, and this Commission is to meet again at the end of the year to continue its task of studying and reporting upon the proposals made in 1926 by the French Delegation to ensure the independence and security of the League's communications in time of emergency, and more particularly respecting the facilities to be given aircraft engaged in transport of importance to the League's working.

The Rapporteur stated that, as it was necessary, in the interest of the freedom and security of aircraft flying over States with a view to ensuring communications of importance to the League in times of emergency, that as little as possible should be left to chance and unilateral decisions, and that each State should be aware of its obligations, it would be desirable for the Secretary-General and the various Governments to agree beforehand on the rules to be observed and the normal routes to be followed by such aircraft. These definite regulations would facilitate the mission to be carried out by aircraft in the joint service of the League and of the different countries. A certain elasticity,