

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

The Sixtieth and Sixty-first Sessions of the Council were held from September 8 to September 12 and from September 17 to October 3 respectively, under the presidency of the Venezuelan Representative. Canada's term of membership on the Council expired on September 16.

In addition to the usual routine in connection with the work of the Assembly, the Council was occupied with the adjustment of a number of political differences, with the election of members to the Economic Committee and Economic Consultative Committee and of judges to the Permanent Court of International Justice, with the problems of health, opium and refugees, of penal reform, traffic in women and intellectual co-operation.

The Report of the Permanent Mandates Commission on Palestine it was thought for a time would create a rather delicate situation for the Council. It was found possible, however, to agree upon a report which gave a measure of satisfaction to the members of the Mandates Commission and proved acceptable to the British Representative on the Council.

The question of freedom of transport and transit in the Saar territory was also settled by a decision of the Council to suppress both the Saar Railway Committee and the Defence Force within a maximum period of three months.

The Lithuanian and Polish Governments were invited to enter into direct negotiations with the object of restoring order and tranquillity on the boundary where incidents had occurred and to communicate any observations they might desire to make on the conclusions of the Transit Committee with regard to obstacles to freedom of communications within their territories.

An amicable settlement was arranged between the German and Lithuanian representatives providing for a modification of the Memel Directorate.

After hearing the parties and consulting a committee of juries, the Council appointed M. Uden (Sweden) to arbitrate a dispute between the Bulgarian and Greek Governments relating to measures taken by the former in regard to forests situated in Bulgaria, the property of Turkish nationals who became Greek nationals as a result of the Treaties which ended the Balkan Wars. It was understood that Bulgaria should have the right to contest the Greek Government's claim before the arbitrator, either in respect of receivability or of the substance of the question.

No objection was raised to the amendments to the Constitution of the Free City of Danzig, adopted by the Popular Assembly (Volkstag) of the Free City at its sittings on May 26 and June 27, 1930. By the proposed amendments the number of deputies to the Volkstag at present one hundred and twenty, is reduced to seventy-two. The Volkstag, which is elected for four years and formerly could not be dissolved during this period, may, in future, be dissolved during this period by its own decision or by a referendum. As regards the Senate, which at present consists of two categories of Senators (one category being elected for four years, the other for an indefinite period), the amendment provides that all Senators shall in future be elected by the Volkstag for an indefinite period and be responsible to it. The number of Senators will be reduced from twenty-two to twelve.

The opinion of the Permanent Court that the special legal status of the Free City of Danzig does not enable the Free City to become a Member of the International Labour Organization was noted on September 9. The opinion of the Court on the interpretation of certain clauses of the Greco-Bulgarian Emigration Convention of November 27, 1919, which relate to communities, was also noted.

Out of four appeals from the German minority in Upper Silesia two were declared closed in view of conciliatory decisions recently taken by the Polish Governments, and the two others were adjourned to a future session.