

Notes

(2)

D 31493

*Revised 8
of previous paragraph
to read as follows
M.H.R.*

Canada comes to the League of Nations today with a desire to reaffirm its adherence to the fundamental principle of the Covenant. The preservation of peace by the progressive organization of international co-operation within a collective system has been championed in equal measure by members of all political parties in ~~my~~ ^{Canada} country. Our attachment to this ideal is as strong today as it was at the inception of the League.

While we renew our pledge to seek peace by collective effort, we are obliged to direct attention to the fact that representatives of Canada at previous Assemblies have taken exception to the wording and implication of certain clauses in the Covenant, and have declined to be bound by them except as expressly interpreted. Specifically, Canada has recognized no obligation with respect to military sanctions. As regards both military and economic sanctions, she has, by unanimous resolution of the House of Commons, made their application subject to the approval of the Canadian Parliament.

This attitude towards sanctions does not arise from any desire to shirk an obligation essential to the maintenance of peace. It is rooted in a determination to avoid pledges to specific action ⁱⁿ advance of the event which may, in a time of crisis or need, be difficult or impossible to fulfil. It is supported by a conviction that any attempt to enforce automatic sanctions in the existing world situation is likely