

(4) The urgency of prohibiting the preparation as well as the use of chemical and bacteriological methods of warfare.

As regards the first of these principles, it was, he said, worthy of note that no objection had been raised to the principle of a permanent organisation which would supervise the proper functioning of a system of reduction and limitation of armaments, and it had been generally recognised that whatever measure of reduction was embodied in the Convention this would only be considered as a first step.

There is one other point in Mr. Henderson's speech which should be noted; as illustrating the immensity of the task before them, he called attention to the fact that the whole problem of security and the organisation of the international community in the interests of peace had been very clearly set out as a corollary to disarmament. By this he was, of course, referring to the French proposals for the creation of an international army, and, as a matter of fact, the presentation of these proposals complicated and rendered more difficult the work of the Conference, not only because it introduced the need of discussing and settling political problems of a far-reaching and highly controversial character, but also because it revealed how deep was the division which separated the French and German points of view towards the whole question of disarmament. So much is this the case that it cannot be said that the prospects of any substantial achievement are at all good, if one is to judge by the course of the discussions which took place as a result of the introduction of the political aspect of the problem in this way.

It was in the General Committee that the subject of security, in the French sense, was first touched upon. This Committee was set up ⁽²⁾ to undertake the work of co-ordinating the general work of the Conference, and of considering the political aspects of disarmament and, in particular, the questions raised in the French memorandum turning largely on security. On the day on which the general discussion was concluded in the plenary Conference certain developments took place in the General Committee which may be briefly referred to, since they seemed to foreshadow what may very possibly be the real crisis of the Conference. M. Tardieu took occasion to declare that certain principles of the Draft Convention could not be replaced by others, and it was understood that he had in mind Article 53.⁽³⁾ The importance of this statement is that it brings to the forefront of the discussions the antithesis between the French and German standpoints, which will have to be dealt with before any real progress can be made. The French Premier was led to make this declaration by a statement by the German delegate during the discussion as to whether the Draft Convention should be adopted as the framework for the Committee's work. Herr Nadolny had pointed out that the German proposals for

(2) It is composed of the heads of each delegation, with Mr. Henderson as Chairman.

(3) This states that the Convention shall not affect the provisions of previous treaties; that is, the disarmament clauses of the Versailles Treaty shall not be modified.