

Geneva discussions with understanding.

The Draft Convention is divided into six Parts, headed: Personnel, Material, Budgetary Expenditure, Exchange of Information, Chemical Arms, and Miscellaneous Provisions. It contains sixty articles with numerous annexes. Regarded from the outside, the Draft Convention intends to limit armaments by partial limitation of the personnel of land and sea forces, of war material, of expenditures for both purposes; further to limit armaments by prohibiting chemical arms; to control armaments or such limitations thereof, respectively, as will be laid down in a General Disarmament Treaty, by means of a general exchange of information regarding armaments, and by means of creating a Permanent Disarmament Control Commission and thereby fulfilling the obligations set out in Article 8 of the Covenant as well as the promise given in the introduction to Part V of the Treaty of Versailles, to the effect that Germany's disarmament was to be followed by a general disarmament. So far everything appears to be in the best of order. But why did the German representative on the Preparatory Disarmament Commission, during the discussions concerning the Draft Convention, protest against this draft again and again? Why is its text crowded with reservations by the German delegation, and why did the German delegate during these discussions, as well as the German Foreign Minister, in the Council, decline the draft as a whole? Why did they characterise it as an unsuitable basis for the proceedings of next year's General Disarmament Conference?