

Parties to preserve the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all States members of the League. The Signatories to the Covenant are called upon to declare (a) that all existing territorial delimitations are just and expedient, (b) that they will continue indefinitely to be just and expedient, (c) that the Signatories will be responsible therefor. The undertaking seems to involve initially a careful survey, consideration and determination of all territorial questions between the various States who become parties to the Covenant. Even if such a survey were practicable it is impossible to forecast the future. There may be national aspirations to which the provisions of the peace treaty will not do justice and which cannot be permanently repressed. Subsequent articles contemplate the possibility of war between two or more of the Signatories under such conditions that the other Signatories are not called upon to participate actively therein. If, as a result of such war, the nation attacked occupies and proposes to annex (possibly with the consent of a majority of the population) a portion of the territory of the aggressor, what is to be the operation of this Article? Indeed, the Article seems inconsistent with the provisions of Articles XII to XVII inclusive. Obviously a dispute as to territory is within the meaning and competence of the six Articles last referred to, under which a disposition of the dispute materially different from that proposed by Article X might be reached. Article XXIV does not seem to remove the difficulty.

Article XI is as follows:

Any war or threat of war, whether immediately affecting any of the High Contracting Parties or not, is hereby declared a matter of concern to the League, and the High Contracting Parties reserve the right to take any action that may be deemed wise and effectual to safeguard the peace of nations.

It is hereby also declared and agreed to be the friendly right of each of the High Contracting Parties to draw the attention of the Body of Delegates or of the Executive Council to any circumstances affecting international intercourse which threaten to disturb international peace or the good understanding between nations upon which peace depends.

Proposed Amendment:

Any war or threat of war, whether immediately affecting any of the High Contracting Parties or not, is hereby declared a matter of concern to the League, and the High Contracting Parties declare it to be their right and duty to take any action that may be deemed wise and effectual to safeguard the peace of nations.

It is also declared to be the friendly right of any High Contracting Party to draw the attention of the Body of Delegates or of the Council to any circumstances which threaten to disturb international peace or the good understanding between nations upon which peace depends.

Reasons for Amendment: (a) Explicit declaration of right and duty, (b) Omission of unnecessary words.