League of nations Layada May 15th, 1936. 4860

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Mr. Baldwin's Speech of May 14th on Future of League of Nations.

Mr. Baldwin's speech of May 14th to the Conservative Women's Association has been variously reported. The Canadian Press despatch which appeared in the Ottawa and Toronto papers yesterday afternoon put in the forefront the statement that the Prime Minister was prepared to use military sanctions to protect League of Nations members from aggression, provided other league states joined in common action in such a case. Baldwin added that military sanctions are an essential part of the collective security system and said that in the long run, and, perhaps, on occasion in the short run, they cannot be avoided, though there must be no "sleeping partner" in collective security. He declared defence of world peace was not a task which should be left exclusively to the British fleet. The ideals of the league covenant remain the basis of British foreign policy. There were, however, many difficulties in the way of imposing sanctions because the United States, Germany and Japan are non members. Baldwin went on to say "I have never held that the possible failure of the first experiment in sanctions should mean the end of the league." He declared that probably at the autumn meeting of the league its members would have to consider what changes, if any, are necessary to the league, intimating that Article XVI might require re-examination.

The New York Times and Montreal Gazette Cable is fuller.

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