

to preparations, and has furthermore demanded a prohibition against throwing of bombs from the air, against large calibre guns and tanks of every kind, but unfortunately without success.

Finally, the last part of the Draft, Part VI, concerning Miscellaneous Provisions. It contains provisions for the setting-up of a Permanent Disarmament Commission, with the duty of controlling the execution of the Disarmament Convention. It also contains derogations. If, during the term of the Convention, one of the contracting parties considers "its national security" to be menaced owing to a change of circumstances, this party may suspend temporarily, insofar as concerns itself, the provisions of the Convention.

Among the final provisions Article 53 deserves special mention. It reads:- "The present convention shall not affect the provisions of previous treaties, under which certain of the High Contracting Parties have agreed to limit their land, sea or air armaments, and have thus fixed, in relation to one another, their respective rights and obligations in this connection.

The following High Contracting Parties signatory to the said treaties, declare that the limits fixed for their armaments under the present convention are accepted by them in relation to the obligations referred to in the preceding paragraph, the maintenance of such provisions being for them an essential condition for the observance of the present convention."

This article has evidently a double meaning: first, the disarmed states are to oblige themselves voluntarily once again to acknowledge as legally binding the disarmament measures imposed upon them and to maintain them; secondly, the other powers are to consider themselves bound by the General Disarmament Treaty only for such time as the disarmed states adhere to their voluntary acknowledgment and continuation of the state of disarmament imposed upon