

by linking the obligation with a definite contingency and a direct interest. The danger that such agreements might develop in practice into old-fashioned military alliances will doubtless be given careful consideration. It is essential to recognize that the areas in which regional agreements could be worked out are under present conditions restricted, almost wholly, to parts of Europe. League members in other parts of the world where this device is impracticable cannot reasonably object to the formation of such agreements by countries which consider them essential to their own security and the stability of their neighbourhood. If, however, it is proposed that they should undertake to apply automatically economic sanctions to supplement the military action of the regional group, it must be observed that such an arrangement would strengthen and perpetuate the existing one-way tendency in the application of sanctions; it would impose on the adherents to European regional pacts no obligations in Asia or America, while calling for action in the European pact areas by outside members.

As to the proposals regarding Article XI, we are in full sympathy with the shifting of emphasis to enquiry and mediation at an early stage in disputes, and with the view that unanimity cannot reasonably be required in any effort of the Council or the Assembly to effect conciliation. It would be a different matter if it were proposed to transform Article XI into a second sanctions article, applicable before war had broken out, and brought into operation