

The High Contracting Parties undertake in no way to conceal from each other the condition of such of their industries as are capable of being adapted to war-like purposes or the scale of their armaments, and agree that there shall be full and frank interchange of information as to their military and naval programmes.

No attempt has been made to redraft this Article as it would involve important considerations of policy on the part of each State. The objections to the Article in its present form are, however, obvious: (a) The different forms of expression employed may lead to confusion. "National armaments" first appears; then follows "military equipment and armament;" and lastly we find "munitions and implements of war." (b) The Council is to formulate plans for effecting reduction; but there is no suggestion as to the action proposed for putting such plans into execution; unless, (c) the second sentence of the first paragraph is intended to set forth the action to be taken upon such plans when formulated. If so, the draft is confused and redundant. (d) The expression "when adopted" in the second sentence is ambiguous. Are the limits to become effective when adopted by the Council itself or when adopted by the Government of the State in question? Possibly the ambiguity may be intentional; but it is submitted that any ambiguity in so important a document is unfortunate. (e) If the Council is merely to recommend, there should be a clear statement to that effect. If on the other hand the Council is to determine absolutely, then the expression should be equally clear. (f) The second paragraph gives the impression of a weak attempt to control the production of munitions and implements of war. Whom is the Council to advise, and how and by whom is its advice to be carried into effect? If it is merely to recommend or if on the other hand it is to act, the statement should be in either case clear and unambiguous. (g) The concluding paragraph seems equally weak and ineffective.

Article IX is as follows:

A permanent Commission shall be constituted to advise the League on the execution of the provisions of Article VIII and on military and naval questions generally.

Observations: It would be useful to provide that the Commission shall have such powers and duties for the purpose mentioned as the Council may determine.

Article X is as follows:

The High Contracting Parties undertake to respect and preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all States members of the League. In case of any such aggression or in case of any threat or danger of such aggression the Executive Council shall advise upon the means by which this obligation shall be fulfilled.

Observations: It is submitted that this Article should be struck out or materially amended. It involves an undertaking by the High Contracting