

The First Article of the Convention now runs as follows:

Article 1

Il est fondé une organisation permanente chargée de travailler à la réalisation du programme exposé dans le préambule.

Les membres originaires de la Société des Nations seront les membres originaires de cette organisation, et, désormais, la qualité de la Société des Nations entraînera celle de membre de ladite organisation.

A permanent organisation is hereby established for the promotion of the objects set forth in the Preamble.

The original members of the League of Nations shall be the original members of this organisation, and thereafter membership of the League of Nations shall carry with it membership of the said organisation.

108. *Le Premier ministre au premier ministre du Royaume-Uni*

SECRET

Dear Mr. Lloyd George,

Paris, April 16, 1919

You may find it useful to have a summary of what took place yesterday in the Council of Five¹

During the previous afternoon I had a conference extending over two hours with the various experts who had been engaged in the preparation of the British proposals.

Mr. Lansing was afflicted with his usual tendency to defer and refer; hence the progress made was not so great as anticipated.

Several minor matters were disposed of and to these I shall not allude. Otherwise the results were as follows:

1. Maintenance of troops in the occupied German territories. Upon this question I understand the American position is the same as our own. Mr. Lansing raised the point that it was not a military but a political question and should therefore be referred to the Council of Four. As I understand the French attitude it is based upon the consideration that the cost of maintaining the armies of occupation will be paid in priority to claims for reparation. Naturally the French desire to reduce as far as possible this prior charge. I see no reason why the whole cost should not be paid. One is not impressed by the French view that the cost runs into staggering figures, when one recalls the claims which they have advanced. The question now stands for decision by the Council of Four.

¹Le 15 avril (et aussi le 17, voir le document n° 111) M. Borden a assisté au Conseil des Cinq à titre de délégué en chef de l'Empire britannique.