

COPY OF TELEGRAM  
FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS 8 8  
TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

CODE

LONDON.

August 21st 1926

SECRET.

My telegram of August 20th. At the request of the Spanish Government, the Committee on the composition of the Council of the League of Nations will re-assemble at Geneva August 30th. The report mentioned in my telegram of June 16th will be reconsidered. As at present drafted the report deals only with non-permanent members of Council, and provides that their number shall be raised to 9, of whom 1/3 shall be elected each year. Their term of office shall be 3 years and thereafter they shall not be re-eligible for another period of 3 years. The Assembly may, however, by a 2/3 majority grant re-eligibility to <sup>not</sup> more than 1/3 of the non-permanent members. Power is also given to the Assembly by a 2/3 majority, to hold a fresh election for all non-permanent members of Council.

2 amendments to this have been proposed. First is the omission of the Article giving power to the Assembly to hold fresh election. H.M. Government inclined to opinion that this rule hinders the efficient working of the Council in times of crisis. The second amendment is to the effect that any declaration of re-eligibility which the Assembly may desire to make may be made at the forthcoming election in September instead of waiting until the following year. This suggestion was in accord with the original British proposal but was altered at the suggestion of the Belgian representative, see my telegram of May 18th. It has been revived in an attempt to meet the Polish claim, since if Poland were elected and obtained a declaration of re-eligibility at the forthcoming meeting of the Assembly, it would give her the next best thing

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