

(Enclosure No. 1.)

In consequence of the resolutions passed by the Assembly and the Council of the League of Nations on September 25th and 26th, 1925, the Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference was called into being. This preparatory commission was charged with the preparation of the First General Disarmament Conference. The disarmament discussions within the League of Nations are conducted in accordance with Article 8 of the Covenant, which obliges all members of the League of Nations to reduce national armaments to the minimum "reconcilable with national safety and the enforcement of international obligations by joint proceeding." The Preparatory Disarmament Commission has fulfilled its task in six meetings, some of which lasted for several months, and concluded its last meeting on December 9th, 1930 by accepting a draft convention for international disarmament, which is intended to serve as a basis for the deliberations of the First General Disarmament Conference summoned for the beginning of February next.

This draft, the Draft Disarmament Convention, is a political document of exceedingly great importance. It is expected that the Disarmament Conference will last at least six months, and that 3000 to 5000 delegates and experts will come together at Geneva for the occasion, thus making the Conference one of the largest ever held. The United States, Russia, Turkey and other non-member states will take part. It will be a true world conference, and it will have to solve a real world problem, namely that of a general limitation and reduction of armaments and consequently, of creating a codification of armament conditions for the whole world. If one visualizes for a moment what part military armaments have played, and continue to play, in the history of mankind and in our present