

It is understood that the State whose territory has been invaded will not be required to withdraw its forces behind the lines fixed by the Council until its territory has been completely evacuated by the alien forces.

Certain delegations recommended the generalization of the system of permanent demilitarized zones, but the Committee considered that such generalization might be brought about by way of bilateral agreements and not by a general convention.

The Polish delegation desired that the Convention should have included a clause specifying that in the event of the violation of an international obligation concerning the state of a contracting party's armaments, the Council should invite the party concerned to restore the situation in accordance with the said obligation. The Third Committee considered that the question did not come within the scope of the Convention, and the Polish delegation reserved its right to submit the matter to the Disarmament Conference.

The Third Committee unanimously accepted the text of the Article proposed by the Special Committee for the supervision by Commissions of the execution of measures of a military character prescribed by the Council. It was understood that the Commissioners might not make a more extensive inspection than would be necessary to verify the withdrawal of the forces, works or military establishments. In no case could they inspect naval or air bases.

The rules to be followed for the composition and working of Commissions of inspection will be embodied in executive regulations which will be prepared by the competent organs of the League of Nations so as to enter into force at the same time as the Convention.

As regards sanctions, the Third Committee succeeded in achieving unanimity, the Netherlands delegation having renounced the reservation which it had asked to have inserted in the report of the Special Committee. The contracting parties will consider that the violation by another contracting party of the supplementary obligations which it has freely entered into under Articles 2 and 3 of this Convention constitutes *prima facie* evidence, if war breaks out, that the said party has resorted to war within the meaning of Article 16 of the Covenant. It is understood that this is only *prima facie* evidence, which does not preclude proof to the contrary.

A provision was added to the effect that parties to the Convention undertook to ensure by means at their disposal such publicity as the Council might think fit for its proceedings, decisions and recommendations. This clause is aimed at preventing public opinion as far as possible from receiving inaccurate, incomplete or biased information.

At the request of the British delegation, a clause was added indicating that the measures contemplated in the Convention would not affect the right of free passage through the Suez Canal provided for in the Convention of 1888.

The Convention will remain open for signature until February 2, 1932, the date of the meeting of the Disarmament Conference. After that date any State may accede to it. For its entry into force ten ratifications or accessions will be necessary.

A proposal was put forward to insert a clause making the entry into force of the Convention conditional, apart from the number of ratifications or accessions provided for, on a declaration by the Council accepting the responsibilities laid upon it by the Convention. After consideration, it was thought that such a declaration was superfluous; the Convention having been approved by the Assembly, it was recognized that the Council would have to apply its provisions.

The draft general Convention was unanimously adopted by the Assembly and signed at once by Austria, Colombia, Spain, Greece, Lithuania, Norway and Uruguay.