

To Prime Minister

C 117798

SANCTIONS: MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF EIGHTEEN  
Geneva, March 2.

I. Recent Developments.

- Nov.6: Committee of Eighteen approved in principle the imposition of an export embargo on oil, coal, iron and steel, at such time as "the conditions necessary to render this extension effective have been realised."
- Dec.12: Committee met to consider whether those conditions had been realised, but question was not debated as the Hoare-Laval peace plans were before the Council.
- Jan.22: Committee, on recommendation of the Chairman (Vasconcellos of Portugal, after consultation behind the scenes), appointed a Committee of Experts from oil producing and transporting countries to consider the technical aspects of an oil embargo.
- Feb.12: Experts Committee reported that
- (1) an embargo on export of oil if universally applied would be fully effective in about 3½ months;
  - (2) if applied by League states alone, its only effect would be to render the purchase of oil more difficult and expensive;
  - (3) the effectiveness of an embargo on oil transport is subject to the same limitations.
- March 2: Committee of Eighteen is to meet at Geneva primarily to consider this report; other proposals may be brought up.

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939  
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