

Disposal of the Japanese Mandate

The Canadian Legation in Tokyo reports that it is understood the Japanese Report on its Mandatory Administration, which, under the rules of the League, is due on the 1st of September next, will set forth Japan's determination not to surrender her Mandated South Sea Islands merely because she is withdrawing from the League of Nations. Coupled with this decision is an assurance that she has undertaken no military development whatever in those territories. It is understood that the Consul-General of Japan at Geneva will be instructed to state that the administration of these territories was entrusted to Japan in accordance with Article 22 of the first chapter of the Peace Treaty between the Allies and Germany, and was not received from the League of Nations. Therefore, Japan's position is that notice of withdrawal from the League of Nations does not entail any intention to surrender the Mandated Islands. This will raise a nice question of legal interpretation and of political expediency and may come before the Sixth Committee though the disposition will doubtless be to avoid the necessity of making any decision on the principle involved.