

Mr. R.

Review (1)

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The direction of League policies must yield to the influence of prevailing currents of opinion. The interpretation of the League Covenant must be related to conditions and attitudes of mind that exist in fact in the world of today.

To give weight to these considerations at this time does not involve a retreat from the purposes which the League of Nations was designed to realize for mankind. It does not mean that we have altered our ultimate objective. Much less does it mean that we have abandoned our progress toward that objective. It does mean that we are ready to face the realities of the existing situation; that we prefer to accept a temporary deviation from ~~our~~ charted course rather than risk disaster to a noble enterprise, by seeking to maintain a position which has been found untenable when put to the test of practice.

The Covenant as originally drafted provided alternatively for peace by conciliation and peace by collective coercion. In its original conception, the Covenant was predicated upon the universal acceptance of its provisions. Without this assumption of universality, it is doubtful if peace by collective coercion would have found a place within its articles. Experience has revealed the futility of sanctions within a League of Nations where the condition of practical universality is lacking.