

112. *Le Premier ministre au président du Conseil privé*

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Paris, April 21, 1919

My dear Rowell,

I have your letter of 27th March. You have already received no doubt, the amended draft of the Covenant of the League of Nations which, in form at least, is greatly superior to that which was made public in the Plenary Conference several weeks ago.

This morning the amended draft was under consideration at a meeting of the British Delegations. Article X remains as it was in the original draft. Mr. Doherty made a very strong attack upon its provisions and I am clearly of opinion that it would be of great advantage to omit this Article. However, it appears that some of the nations, and particularly France, demand much more and are hardly satisfied with its provisions which are regarded as affording no adequate security. Apparently the omission of this Article would wreck the proposal as a whole. At our meeting, Lord Robert Cecil in his discussion of this Article (of which, as I understand, he does not personally approve) put forward the considerations which I have indicated and also said that any member of the League, although not permanently represented in the Council, would have the right to such representation when the means of fulfilling the obligation expressed in Article X was under consideration. That seems a rather extensive interpretation of the fifth paragraph of Article IV. Probably Article X in practice will not carry the responsibility of Canada beyond the limit fixed by Articles XV to XVII inclusive. On the other hand, however, it puts in the forefront an obligation of a character and in terms that may create considerable difficulty in the attempt to secure adherence of countries like the United States and Canada, not closely interested in territorial disputes in Central and Western Europe.

I deeply regret being detained here so long. More than once I have been on the point of taking my departure; but some condition always arose which pointed to the inexpediency of abandoning my work in the Conference at that particular juncture.

Yours faithfully,

[R. L. BORDEN]

113. *Extraits du procès-verbal de la vingt-sixième réunion de la délégation de l'Empire britannique¹*

SECRET

Morning session, April 21, 1919

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2. REVISED DRAFT OF LEAGUE OF NATIONS COVENANT²

Lord Robert Cecil, introducing the revised draft of the League of Nations Covenant (see P. 106 Revise) as it had been settled by the League of

¹ M. Borden préside. Les autres représentants canadiens présents sont: MM. A. L. Sifton et C. J. Doherty.

² Le texte mentionné ci-dessus paraît être celui qui a émané de la Commission de la Société des Nations, le 21 avril. Certaines modifications verbales ont été faites plus tard, en particulier dans l'article IV: "States which are", avant "Members of the League. . ." ont été omis, ce qui répond à la question soulevée par MM. Borden et Sifton. Voir D. H. Miller: *The Drafting of the Covenant*, tome I, chap. XXXIV.