

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

C.47.1938.IX.

Communicated  
to the Council.

Geneva, January 25th, 1938.

CONFERENCE FOR THE REDUCTION AND LIMITATION OF ARMAMENTS.

Date of the Next Meeting of the Bureau.

Report by the Representative of Iran.

1. On May 31st, 1937, the Bureau of the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments decided, amongst other things:

"To meet again on a date to be fixed by the Council of the League of Nations, for the purpose of considering the replies from the Governments, discussing the draft Convention on Publicity for National Defence Expenditure, and deciding upon appropriate measures".

2. On October 5th, 1937, the Council, after noting what was asked of it under the Bureau's resolution, deferred its decision in the matter until its session in January 1938.\*

3. On June 19th, 1937, the Secretary-General, in accordance with another resolution of the Bureau dated May 31st, 1937, sent to all the Governments which were, or had been, represented at the Conference a circular letter (Conf.D./C.L.16) the purpose of which was to ascertain whether they were, in principle, prepared to agree to a system of budgetary publicity based on the draft Convention drawn up in 1933-34.

4. Of some sixty Governments consulted, only nineteen had replied by the end of last September.

As, under the Bureau's decision, publicity in the matter of expenditure was to form the chief subject of discussion at its next session, the Council naturally took the view that the date of the session should not be fixed until further replies were to hand.

5. In a second circular letter (Conf.D./C.L.17), dated October 23rd, 1937, the attention of Governments was again drawn to the matter. Amongst other things, this letter pointed out that, on September 30th last, the Assembly had recommended the conclusion of an International Convention on Publicity for National Defence Expenditure.\*\*

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\* See C.99th Session/P.V.3.(1), page 4.

\*\* See C./99th Session/P.V.3.(1), page 4.

This letter was to some extent a reminder of the Bureau's decision, and at the same time drew the attention of Governments to the results of the discussion in the Assembly. Fifteen Governments have so far replied to this circular letter and four have acknowledged receipt.

6. To letter C.L.16 only five new replies have been received since the last session of the Council.

Many States, including some of the chief military and naval Powers, have not as yet defined their attitude to the principle of a Convention on Publicity for National Defence Expenditure.

7. In the circumstances, the Council would not appear to be in a position usefully to fix the date for a new meeting of the Bureau. I therefore propose that this matter should be placed on the agenda of the next ordinary session of the Council.

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