

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

communicated to  
the Council.

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Geneva, January 23rd, 1937.

MANDATES.

Permanent Mandates Commission. - Report on the  
Work of its Thirtieth Session.

REPORT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ROUMANIA.

The Permanent Mandates Commission held its thirtieth session from October 27th to November 11th, 1936. It examined the following annual reports: Cameroons under French Mandate, 1935, Cameroons under British Mandate, 1935, Togoland under French Mandate, 1935, Togoland under British Mandate, 1935, Ruanda-Urundi, 1935, Western Samoa, 1935-36, Islands under Japanese Mandate, 1935.

The Commission also considered two "special" questions, to which I shall revert later, ten petitions concerning Syria and Lebanon, and one petition relating to the Cameroons under French Mandate.

The Commission's report and the minutes of the twenty-one meetings of the session were distributed to the Council on December 30th, 1936, and to the Members of the League on January 22nd, 1937.

The Commission has as usual submitted in its report the observations suggested by its examination, with the assistance of the accredited representatives of the mandatory Powers, of the annual reports on the agenda of its session.

The accredited representatives, to whom these observations were submitted in accordance with the Commission's constitution, stated that they did not call for any comments on their part.

As the Members of the Council have had an opportunity of perusing the Commission's report and the minutes of the session, I will merely mention a few special points:

The Commission states that in the passage relating to Palestine in its last report to the Council, it expressed the hope that, when peace was restored in the territory, the mandatory Power would furnish it with information as to the disturbances of 1936 and their immediate causes; it notes that as the disturbances only came to an end in October the mandatory Power was not able to comply with this request at the Commission's thirtieth session. The latter accordingly states that, being anxious not to delay unduly its consideration of the causes, circumstances and significance of these grave events, it deems it necessary to hold an extraordinary session for the purpose to be convened not later than the first week in April 1937. The Commission observes that this would appear to give the mandatory Power sufficient time to prepare material from which the Mandates Commission can obtain all such information as it may need in order to form an opinion upon the disturbances of 1936, with a view to a report to the Council.

In accordance with Rule 1, paragraph 2, of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, this decision had been submitted to the President of the League Council, who has approved it.

The Representative of the United Kingdom informs me, however, that there is little likelihood that the Royal Commission's report will in fact be available for communication to the Permanent Mandates Commission as early as the first week in April 1937. The Royal Commission on Palestine has, in view of the related decision of the Supreme Arab Committee to co-operate with that body, not yet been able to conclude its exhaustive enquiries in Palestine, and some time must inevitably elapse after its return to the United Kingdom while it is drawing up its report and while the report is being considered by the mandatory Power.

In these circumstances, the representative of the United Kingdom, desirous to help the Mandates Commission in the execution of its task, proposes that the special session should be convened not for the beginning of April but for May 31st, by which date the Commission will unless any unforeseen circumstance arises, be in possession of all the requisite information. I have had occasion to submit this proposal to the representative of the Permanent Mandates Commission, who, yielding to the circumstances adduced by the representative of the United Kingdom, agrees that the special session to deal with Palestine should be deferred until May 31st. At this session, the Commission would examine not only the Royal Commission's report and the conclusions drawn from it by the mandatory Power, but also the annual report for 1936, which will contain a detailed account of the disturbances. Further, the Commission will complete its examination of the 1935 report, certain points of which, it will be remembered, were reserved last year in view of the circumstances.

The ordinary summer session of the Commission would be held at a date to be fixed after the close of the special session.

If my colleagues see no objection to this arrangement, I would propose that the Council should take note of and approve the necessary modification of procedure.

The Commission also informs the Council that the study of the question of the participation of mandated territories in measures arising out of Article 16 of the Covenant against a Member of the League has been deferred for the present.

The Council will doubtless wish to take note of the decision of the Commission.

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From a perusal of the Commission's observations the impression emerges that, generally speaking, the financial and economic situation of the territories whose administration was examined is improving. It will also be seen that the Commission is anxious that the mandated territories to which the rule of economic equality applies should enjoy the benefit of reciprocity to the greatest possible extent. Lastly, in several cases

the Commission asked for more definite information concerning the system of land tenure, in regard to which a provision designed to protect native property is inserted in the mandates.

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In the report examined by the Council this time last year the Commission had referred to the administrative reorganisation carried out in Togoland under French mandate to meet the budgetary deficit; it had simply noted the mandatory Power's statement that these measures did not in any way affect the territory's individual character, and reserved judgment until it had seen the results of the reforms.

Having learnt, when entering upon the examination of the report for 1935, that the mandatory Power had pursued this re-organisation with a view to simplifying the administration always without affecting the territory's individual character the Commission stated that it must again await a later date before judging of the results of these successive reforms.

With reference to Western Samoa, the Commission states that it has been informed by the accredited representative of the mandatory Power that, since the close of the administrative year 1935-36, the New Zealand Government has adopted a new policy aiming at securing the effective co-operation of all sections of the population of the territory with the Administration. As the events in question took place after the close of the period covered by the annual report, the Commission feels that it should reserve judgment upon them until it is in possession of fuller information as to the manner in which the changes were promulgated, the results of these changes, and the reaction of the population.

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The Commission's agenda included the examination of a number of petitions relating to Palestine. The study of these documents was postponed and placed on the agenda of the extraordinary session to be held by the Commission for the discussion of the disturbances which occurred in Palestine in 1936.

None of the petitions actually dealt with during the session gave rise to a special recommendation to the Council. I shall therefore refrain from analysing these petitions, the observations thereon by the mandatory Power concerned, and the Commission's discussions on the matter.

Before concluding I should like to point out that in the case of four of the seven annual reports examined the Commission had the assistance of members of the Administrations of the territories - in two cases the heads of those Administrations - who were appointed as accredited representatives by the mandatory Powers. The Council will, I feel sure, be gratified to note that this commendable practice is becoming general.

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I consider that, as usual, the Commission's observations concerning the reports on the territories examined by it should be transmitted to the mandatory Powers, with the request that they will be good enough to take the action proposed by the Commission. The Council will also, I think, wish to approve the conclusions reached by the Commission on the eleven petitions examined by it. The reasons for these conclusions are given in the reports of the Rapporteurs annexed to the minutes of the Commission.

I have the honour to propose that the Council should adopt the following resolution:

"The Council takes note of the annual reports on the administration of the seven territories enumerated in the report of the Permanent Mandates Commission on the work of its thirtieth session, the Commission's report and minutes, and adopts the present report submitted by the representative of Roumania."

A. Observations on the different territories.

The Council instructs the Secretary-General to communicate in each case to the Government of the mandatory Power concerned the Commission's observations on the administration of the territories the annual reports on which were examined by it (Cameroons under French mandate, 1935, Cameroons under British mandate, 1935, Togoland under French mandate, 1935, Togoland under British mandate, 1935, Ruanda-Urundi, 1935, Western Samoa, 1935-36, Islands under Japanese mandate, 1935) with the request that it should be good enough to take the action proposed by the Commission.

B. Petitions.

The Council approves the Commission's conclusions on the petitions examined by it and requests the Secretary-General to bring them in each case to the knowledge of the mandatory Power and the petitioners concerned.

C. The Secretary-General is requested to attach to the observations and conclusions of the Permanent Mandates Commission communicated to the mandatory Powers the text of the report to the Council by the representative of Roumania, and the minutes of the present meeting.

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