MEMORANDUM FROM THE DIET OF MEMEL TERRITORY.

Note by the Secretary-General.

The following memorandum, dated March 2nd, from the Diet of Memel Territory is circulated for the information of the Council.

Memorandum from the Diet of Memel Territory

To the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

According to the official monthly reports on the activity of the League of Nations (1925 Publication Number 9), the Council of the League of Nations has authorised you, Mr. Secretary-General, on the 28th of September 1925 to direct complaints of inhabitants of the Memel Territory concerning serious violations of the Memel Convention to the Members of the Council.

In order that the procedure stipulated in Article 17 of the Memel Convention may be opened, we have the honour to hand over to you the annexed short Memorandum on serious infringements of the Memel Statute by Lithuania. This Memorandum is based upon the annexed Resolution of the Memel Diet by which the undersigned Commission was at the same time authorised to take all necessary steps.

The situation of the Memel Territory allows of no delay, considering more particularly the financial difficulties caused by the attitude of the Lithuanian Government which threatens to bring...
about a collapse of the autonomous administration.

All our attempts to come to an understanding with Lithuania have failed. The number and weight of the complaints put forward by us prove that Lithuania approaches the problem of autonomy not in the spirit which the Commission of the League of Nations presided over by Mr. Norman Davis had in their report considered as necessary.

The danger which in consequence the Memel Territory has now to face and our responsibility before the population force us to ask you to inform the Members of the Council of the League in order that the financial question may already now be settled without delay and furthermore that the initiative be taken for giving an authentic interpretation of the Memel Statute. Only then will the practical execution of the autonomy which was desired by the Chief Allied Powers and guaranteed by the League of Nations be secured.

(Signed) J. KRAUS.

President of the Chamber of Representatives.

Signed: v. DRESSLER.
Member of the Diet.

Signed: GUBBA
Member of the Diet.

Signed: KISLAT
Member of the Diet.

Signed: ROGGE
Member of the Diet.
the Diet in agreement with the Directory concerning the financial quota to be attributed to her by the Lithuanian Government have until now had as little results as the numerous preceding negotiations of the provisional Borchert Directory. A detailed proposal has been submitted to the Lithuanian Government to which the letter has not yet answered by an acceptable counter-proposal.

The Lithuanian Government, it is true, places a monthly sum of 400,000 Lit. at the disposal of the Memel Territory an amount which is in no way sufficient, whereas, according to Article 35, the Memel Territory is entitled and forced to claim at least 1,000,000 Lit. It was therefore, inevitable that already under the administration of the provisional Directory of Borchert a progressing deterioration of the financial situation became manifest.

Now that the legal organs of the autonomous Territory have taken up their constitutional activity, a settlement must be brought about without delay which secures financially the vitality of autonomy. For one cannot, as the Davis Commission of the League of Nations says in its Report, and as it becomes manifest perhaps most clearly in this question, grant autonomy with the one hand and withdraw it with the other.

2. Art.5 paragraph 9: According to that article, the civil and commercial legislations as well as the right in the matter of private insurance is under the competence of the autonomous authorities. But the Lithuanian Government demands beyond the general legislation of the Lithuanian Republic the deposition of an extraordinarily high security by the foreign insurance companies the activities of which the Memel Territory cannot forego and furthermore
furthermore makes their activity dependent on a special authorisation of the Minister of Finance.

This is at the same time in contradiction with Article 12 of the Convention, the Lithuanian Government thus paralysing the activity of foreign insurance companies in the Memel territory and thereby causing great economic damage to the latter.

3. Art. 5 paragraphs 5, 12: The Lithuanian Government sets the Lithuanian State officials on duty in the territory free from the obligation to pay taxes and from social insurances though these officials are under the financial authority of the Memel Territory in fiscal matters and under its administrative authority as regards social insurance.

II.

Cultural Questions of Autonomy.

4. Art. 27: This stipulation according to which the Lithuanian and German languages are both official languages on a footing of equality is not observed by the authorities of the Lithuanian Government in the Memel Territory (Railways, postal service, customs, state police).

5. Art. 31: The practical execution of this Article which provides for the employment of teachers of foreign nationality is made impossible by the Lithuanian Government's refusing in certain cases to admit the persons in question to the Memel Territory.
III. Administrative Questions of Autonomy.

6. Art. 28: The Lithuanian Government has undertaken to preserve in its employment those officials who are citizens of the Memel District and who were already in their service on the 1st of January 1924. Notwithstanding, the Lithuanian Government has dismissed a great number of these officials and continues to do so.

7. Art. 6, par. 3 and Art. 20:
   a) Contrary to Art. 5, 3, the Lithuanian Government maintains a political police-force in the Memel Territory.
   b) By decree of the Lithuanian Minister of the Interior, dated August 26, 1925, the citizens of the Memel Territory must be able to prove their identity by so-called "inland passports", which is at the same time contrary to Art. 20.

8. Art. 34: Passports in the meaning of this Article, are of course, as everywhere else, passports for travels abroad. The delivery of these passports has, however, been entrusted by the Lithuanian Government to the Governor which is in contradiction with the aforesaid Article. The "Inland passports" provided for by the Lithuanian Government as having to be delivered by the Directory, and mentioned under III, 7 b) are not passports in the meaning of Art. 34.

9. Art. 5, par. 7: The Lithuanian Government withdraws from the jurisdiction of the autonomous authorities the regulations concerning foreigners residing in the Memel District. It demands the authorisation of the Governor or the Lithuanian Minister of the Interior for the admission to as well as for the residence in the
Memel Territory. Now, the regulations concerning foreigners in the Memel District as regards both admission and residence fall under the competence of the local autonomous authorities of the Memel Territory.

These most important complaints alone show that the Lithuanian Government does not interpret the Memel Statute in the spirit which the special Commission of the League of Nations presided over by Mr. Davis expected confidently when the autonomy was laid down as it is expressly said in their Report.

ANNEX B.

to the Letter of March 2nd, 1926.

RESOLUTION

of the Diet taken in the meeting

of February 25, 1926.

The Diet has decided:

1) to work out a Memorandum which makes known to the League of Nations the violations of the Memel Statute by the Central Government and asks for relief.

2) to take all the further steps which may be necessary.