Memorandum by the Secretary-General.

It its session in February last, the Temporary Mixed Commission examined the Council's decision of January 31st, 1923, with regard to Assembly Resolution No. XIV, and the Resolution itself. It also had before it a draft treaty of mutual guarantee, submitted by Lord Robert Cecil, aiming at the application of the principles of this Resolution.

The Commission adopted the following Resolution:

(a) The Commission, in the course of the study concerning the reduction of armaments, prescribed by the Resolutions of the Assembly and the Council, having before it a draft treaty of mutual guarantee, decides, after discussion, to continue its examination of the scheme at its next session.

(b) The Commission refers the draft treaty to the Permanent Advisory Commission and requests the P.A.C. to express its technical advice thereon. The Commission recommends the Council to transmit the draft treaty to the Governments of the Members of the League with a request that they will take the matter into their consideration and will be good enough to communicate their judgment thereon to the Council.

(c) The Commission decides to appoint a Sub-Committee to examine the draft treaty of mutual guarantee submitted to it by Lord Robert Cecil, to study its clauses and to present a report to the full Commission after having received the technical opinion of the Permanent Advisory Commission, provided that this opinion reaches the Sub-Committee by the 1st May at latest.

The Council will no doubt desire to consider whether immediate effect should be given to the recommendation expressed by the Commission in paragraph (b) of this Resolution.
The Council is aware that, in pursuance of previous resolutions, Assembly Resolution No. XIV was distributed to the Members of the League, with the request that they would be good enough to forward any observations thereon to the Secretariat. Replies have so far been received from the following States:

Bulgaria Panama Hungary
Albania Roumania

Information has been received from Estonia and Czecho-Slovakia that the question is being submitted to a searching examination by their Governments. The Government of Chile replied on March 2nd, 1923, "that it took great interest in the request of His Excellency the President of the Council; that the question of the reduction of armaments was among those which, at the suggestion of the Chilian Government, would shortly be examined by the next Pan-American Conference, and that, as soon as the countries of America had formulated a definite policy in the matter, the Chilian Government would have the honour to inform the Council of the League of Nations thereof."

Further, in accordance with the decision taken by the Council at its meeting of the 31st January last, a circular letter (C.L.20) has been sent to all States Members of the League, asking them to be good enough to make every possible effort to ensure that their observations on Resolution No. 14 reach the Secretariat by the 1st June, 1923, at latest.