

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

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C.231.1929.V.

Geneva, 3rd June, 1929.

PROGRESSIVE CODIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE OF THREE

JURISTS APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL ON DECEMBER

14th, 1928.

Report by the Representative of Italy.

By a resolution dated December 14th, 1928, the Council appointed a committee composed of Professor Diena, His Excellency M. Guerrero and Professor Schücking, in pursuance of the Assembly resolution of September 24th, 1928. In this resolution, the Assembly requested that the preparation of a systematic survey of the subjects of international law should be entrusted to a committee of three jurists, to be chosen preferably from among the members of the Committee of Experts, and that this survey should be communicated to the Members of the League as soon as possible.

By the same resolution, the Assembly also requested the Council "to submit to examination, by the abovementioned committee of three jurists, the question of publishing, as an accompaniment to the Treaty Series and in the form of a code - of which new editions would from time to time be produced - certain general Conventions" (i.e. Conventions open to accession by all States) "and to report to the Assembly on the matter at its next session".

This Committee of Three Jurists met at Geneva from April 15th - 23rd last and submitted a report which has been communicated to all the Members of the Council (Document C.171.1929.V).

In its report, the Committee explains the principles to which it has adhered in carrying out its twofold mission. The first Annex (Annex A) contains a systematic survey of the subjects of international law, as requested by the Council. Annex B is the Committee's detailed report on the publication of general Conventions in the form of a code. Annex C contains budget estimates, prepared by the Secretariat at the request of the Committee, concerning the publication contemplated in Annex B.

Assembly suggested that the survey of subjects of international law prepared by the Committee should be communicated as soon as possible to all the Members of the League. It would seem to be desirable that the Council should at the same time communicate them to the Assembly.

The second question, that of the publication of general Conventions in the form of a code, is more strictly a matter for the Assembly to deal with. The latter, though recognising the practical value of the proposed publication, reserved the right, after examining the results of the above-mentioned enquiry, to decide as to the advisability of undertaking this work.

In these circumstances, I think that the Council might thank the Committee of Three Jurists for the valuable work it has accomplished and decide that its report shall be communicated to all Members of the League of Nations and to the Assembly.

I would therefore propose to my colleagues the following resolution:-

Draft Resolution.

The Council,

Thanks the Committee of Three Jurists for the work it has accomplished

And decides that the report of the Committee shall be communicated to the Members of the League and to the Assembly.