

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

C.350.1931.XII.

Geneva, May 19th, 1931.

INTERNATIONAL BUREAUX.

(Article 24 of the Covenant).

Application from the International Exhibitions Bureau.

Report by the Representative of Venezuela.

The Members of the Council will remember that, under Article 24 of the Covenant and in accordance with the rules concerning the relations between the League and institutes or bodies set up under its authority approved by the Assembly at its Ninth Session on September 20th, 1926, a public international organisation may be placed under the direction of the League if certain conditions are fulfilled. Up to the present four organisations have been granted this privilege.

The Council has before it to-day a new application from an international organisation to the effect that it should be placed under the direction of the League in accordance with Article 24 of the Covenant. This organisation is the International Exhibitions Bureau, which has its seat in Paris. The letter dated April 30th, 1931, from M. Alphonse Dunant, President of the Bureau, has been circulated to the Members of the Council (Document C.305.M.144.1931).

This Bureau was set up in January 1931 under Article 10 of the Convention relating to International Exhibitions, signed at Paris on November 22nd, 1926. This Convention regulates, as between the adhering Governments, various questions relating to international exhibitions - their character, duration, frequency, the sending of invitations, the participation of the countries invited, the co-operation of two countries in organising exhibitions of the same nature, etc. The Convention, which has so far been ratified by eleven Governments, came into force in January 1931. It was registered with the League Secretariat

on the 17th of that month, at the request of the British and French Governments. Several other countries have stated that they have taken the necessary steps to enable them to deposit their instruments of ratification very shortly.

It is the object of the International Bureau to ensure the application of the Convention. The Bureau consists of an Administrative Council, assisted by a Classifications Committee and a Director.

The Administrative Council consists of members appointed by the contracting countries, each country nominating from one to three members.

The functions of the Bureau are laid down in the Convention. Its budget has been provisionally fixed at £4,000. It obtains its funds from the contributions of the adhering countries, which are fixed according to the scale of those countries' contributions to the League. In the case of States which are not Members of the League, their contributions are fixed by analogy with one of the Member States.

The Bureau began its work as soon as the Convention came into force. It has appointed the Administrative Council, from which the application submitted to the League Council emanates. As regards its constitution, purpose and method of working, the Bureau complies with the essential conditions laid down in the Council's Report of June 1928, which international organisations placed under the direction of the League in accordance with Article 24 of the Covenant must fulfil. I accordingly propose to my colleagues the following draft resolution:

"The Council,

"Having noted the request of M. Alphonse Dunant, President of the International Exhibitions Bureau, that this Bureau should be placed under the direction of the League, in

accordance with Article 24 of the Covenant,

"Notes that this Bureau is a public organisation, that it is of international utility, that its functions do not overlap with those of any other organisation and that it thus fulfils the conditions required by the Council and Assembly,

"Accordingly decides to accede to the request of the International Exhibitions Bureau and to place this Bureau under the direction of the League, in conformity with Article 24 of the Covenant;

"Entrusts the Secretary-General with the task of giving effect to this decision in accordance with the rules adopted by the Assembly on September 20th, 1928."