

Translation.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

circulated to the
Council.

C. 548.1931.I.

Geneva, September 8th, 1931.

FREE CITY OF DANZIG.

RELATIONS BETWEEN DANZIG AND POLAND.

Special Report of the High Commissioner.

Letter from the Polish Government, dated September
1st, 1931.

Note by the Secretary-General.

With reference to Document C.502.1931.I. containing the special report of the High Commissioner, dated August 15th, 1931, the Secretary-General has the honour to circulate to the Council a letter from the High Commissioner, dated September 4th, 1931, transmitting a letter addressed to him by the Diplomatic Representative of the Polish Government at Danzig on September 1st, 1931, relating to the statement of the Senate of Danzig, dated August 14th, 1931, which appears as Annex IV to the aforesaid special report of the High Commissioner.

Letter from the High Commissioner to the Secretary-
General.

Danzig, September 4th, 1931.

Sir,

In response to the request of M. Strasburger,
I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of letter
No.1042/T/31 from the Polish Government and to ask you
to be good enough to circulate it to Members of the
Council.

(Signed) M. GRAVINA.

Letter from the Polish Diplomatic Representative
to the High Commissioner.

Danzig, September 1st, 1931

With the copy of your report transmitted for the use of Members of the Council of the League of Nations you were good enough to forward to me a copy of the report of the Senate, dated August 14th, on the relations between Poland and Danzig.

As I have already had occasion to inform you, the Polish Government, having complete confidence in your impartiality, leaves it to your judgment to decide how the situation in Danzig is to be presented. I feel that any picture presented in a one-sided light, particularly unilateral complaints in a form chosen by Danzig, would do very little either to make known or to improve the present situation. As representative of the Polish Government, I must decline, therefore, to engage in any argument with reference to the report by the Free City of August 14th. The majority of the questions raised by the Senate of the Free City of Danzig are in process of being settled by you, and there is thus no need for them to be transferred to the Geneva forum. The remaining questions have either long been settled by means of agreements or decisions of the League organs and it is not expedient to revert to them or would

probably have been solved if the Senate had not for many months past been placing obstacles in the way of relations with Poland.

It would be difficult for me, however, to refrain from pointing out that the fact of the Polish Government's being held responsible for the financial difficulties of the Free City implies that the latter seeks to decline responsibility for the consequences of its own economic administration and to blame Poland for sacrifices necessitated by the present situation in every country. The situation of the Free City and the means to be employed to improve that situation had already been examined in 1926 and 1927 by the League Financial Committee. I may point out that all the recommendations of the Financial Committee, addressed at that time to the Polish Government, with a view to easing the financial situation in Danzig, were strictly carried out by Poland, whereas the Senate has never yet considered it necessary to comply with the Committee's recommendations. The Senate of the Free City cannot, therefore, place on Poland the responsibility for the financial situation which it has itself brought about.

I desire also to make reservations as regards the complaints brought against the Polish Government, to the effect that a large proportion of the Polish merchants and the Polish public refuse to entertain relations with

Danzig. The anxiety and atmosphere of excitement which have prevailed for months past in Danzig, owing to the demonstrations of extreme nationalist elements, were not calculated to attract Polish merchants or the Polish population. The belief of certain people in Danzig that a frankly hostile policy can be pursued against the Poles and that they can at the same time be forced into animated intercourse with Danzig cannot lead to satisfactory results. The nationalist demonstrations against the legal status of the Free City, in which official representatives frequently take part, are bound to make Polish merchants adopt an attitude of caution and reserve.

I have confined myself to noting in this letter the reasons which have brought about a further aggravation of the political situation, and hence of the economic situation in Danzig. I shall, however, refrain from formulating complaints concerning the difficulties of various kinds encountered latterly by Poland in the territory of the Free City, more particularly as regards the protection of the Polish minority and the execution of the Customs provisions by the Danzig authorities, as you yourself have already given or are about to give decisions with reference to those difficulties.

The arguments in the Danzig report relating to the military danger from Poland - unless their object is to

divert attention from the military activities of German associations in the territory of the Free City - call for no explanation within the category of League affairs. It is simply because a section of public opinion is misled by the Danzig nationalist press that I feel it necessary to reiterate the fact that the Polish Government interprets its duties in Danzig as consisting in the consolidation of peace and the pursuit of stable relations.

I should be grateful if you would take steps to have copies of this letter sent to all the persons to whom the report of the Senate of the Free City was forwarded.

(Signed) HENRYK STRASBURGER.