

B 56.41.1.10.24/1a
LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

20/4/2A.

ADMISSION OF SWITZERLAND AS A MEMBER OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

28/3076/44.

Resolution agreed to by the Council of the League of Nations,
meeting in London at St. James' Palace,
on 13th February, 1920.

The Council of the League of Nations, while affirming that the conception of neutrality of the Members of the League is incompatible with the principle that all the Members will be obliged to co-operate in enforcing respect for their engagements, recognises that Switzerland is in a unique situation, based on a tradition of several centuries, which has been explicitly incorporated in the Law of Nations; and that the Members of the League of Nations, signatories of the Treaty of Versailles, have rightly recognised by Article 435 that the guarantees stipulated in favour of Switzerland by the Treaties of 1815, and especially by the Act of November 20, 1815, constitute international obligations for the maintenance of peace.

The Members of the League of Nations are entitled to expect that the Swiss people will not stand aside when the high principles of the League have to be defended. It is in this sense that the Council of the League has taken note of the declaration made by the Swiss Government in its Message to the Federal Assembly of August 4, 1919, and in its Memorandum of January 13, 1920, which declarations have been confirmed by the Swiss delegates at the meeting of the Council, and in accordance with which Switzerland recognises and proclaims the duties of solidarity which membership of the League imposes upon her, including therein the duty of co-operating in such economic and financial measures as may be demanded by the League of Nations against a Covenant-breaking State, and is prepared to make every sacrifice to defend her own territory under every circumstance, even during operations undertaken by the League of Nations, but will not be obliged to take part in any military action or to allow the



passage of foreign troops or the preparation of military operations within her territory.

In accepting these declarations, the Council recognises that the perpetual neutrality of Switzerland and the guarantee of the inviolability of her territory as incorporated in the Law of Nations, particularly in the Treaties and in the Act of 1815, are justified by the interests of general peace, and, as such, are compatible with the Covenant.

In view of the special character of the Constitution of the Swiss Confederation, the Council of the League of Nations is of opinion that the notification of the Swiss declaration of accession to the League, based on the declaration of the Federal Assembly, and to be carried out within two months from January 10, 1920, (the date of the coming into force of the Covenant of the League of Nations), can be accepted by the other Members of the League, as the declaration required by Article 1 for admission as an Original Member, provided that confirmation of this declaration by the Swiss people and Cantons be effected in the shortest possible time.

I certify that the above is an authentic copy of the Resolution passed by the Council of the League at its meeting in London on Feb. 13th 1920.

Eric Drummond
Secretary General.