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*La Légation de Suisse à Londres à la Division des Affaires
étrangères du Département politique*

Copie de réception
T n° 30

Londres, 26 mai 1920
(Reçu: 27 mai)

Je confirme mon télégramme numéro 28,¹ M. Ador vous fait savoir ce qui suit: «J'ai eu une entrevue avec M. Thomas ce matin. Il maintient sa volonté d'installer l'Office Travail à Genève et il a adressé à ce sujet un long rapport au Conseil de l'Office Travail qui se réunit huit jours à Gênes. Il compte absolument sur l'appui très énergique des Délégués suisses. Il est toujours inquiet sur influence agissant dans les coulisses contraire aux décisions office. J'ai vu cet après-midi avec Ministre Paravicini Sir Eric Drummond² qui déclare nettement avoir assisté à toutes séances officielles et officieuses à Rome et que, jamais, il n'a été question de transférer le siège et le Secrétariat à Bruxelles. La résolution votée est la suivante:

«Que le Secrétariat soit autorisé à rester à Londres où son siège provisoire est actuellement établi et que la date du transfert au siège permanent soit fixée par le Conseil après que l'assemblée aura pu délibérer à ce sujet.» Fin de la résolution.

D'après lui la réunion de l'Assemblée générale à Bruxelles est uniquement un témoignage de politesse envers la Belgique à laquelle on n'avait pas accordé le siège de la Ligue. Ce choix ne préjudicie en rien pour l'avenir. Drummond personnellement ne désire nullement transférer Secrétariat à Bruxelles, l'installation prochaine du Secrétariat à Genève lui paraît impossible en vue des préparations concernant les travaux de l'assemblée, il prévoit en tout cas maintien du Secrétariat à Londres jusqu'en janvier. D'après texte du télégramme envoyé à Président Wilson que nous a communiqué Drummond,³ le Conseil unanime a effectivement recommandé la ville de Bruxelles. Pour le communiqué officiel que vous projetez de faire à Secrétariat selon votre télégramme Numéro 98 adressé à Ministre Paravicini, vous pouvez vous baser sur ces renseignements. Prière ne pas mentionner que Drummond affirme ne pas désirer aller à Bruxelles dans communiqué éventuel à la presse.

1. Cf. n° 338.

2. La notice de Drummond sur cet entretien est reproduite en annexe.

3. Cf. n° 333, note 2.

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ANNEXE

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

SEAT OF THE LEAGUE AND OF THE FIRST MEETING OF
THE ASSEMBLY.

*Note, by the Secretary General of an interview with M. Ador
and the Swiss Minister in London on 26th May, 1920.*

I interviewed M. Ador, and the Swiss Minister, this afternoon. M. Ador raised the question of the choice of Brussels for the Assembly and that of San Sebastian for the next meeting of the Council. He also mentioned a rumour which had reached him that the Secretariat was to be transferred to Brussels before the Assembly meeting. He expatiated at some length on the grievance which he said the Swiss would justly feel if they were now deprived of the Seat of the League, and especially emphasised the fact that the Swiss Government had made great play of this point during the recent campaign preceeding the referendum; that, if the choice of Geneva were revoked, the Government would find themselves in a very difficult position towards the Swiss people who would feel that they had been deliberately tricked.

I took the points one by one, and explained to him that the question of the Permanent Seat of the League had not been discussed by the Council even in their private meetings; that it had been assumed that Geneva was to be the permanent seat as stated in the Covenant, though I reminded him that this could be changed by a decision of the Council. In this connexion he raised the point as to whether such a change would have to be effected by unanimity or by a majority. I told him that this was a legal question on which I did not feel capable of expressing an opinion.

I then gave him the reasons which had led to Brussels being unanimously put forward for the place of meeting for the first Assembly. I laid stress on the fact that as Brussels had not been chosen for the permanent seat, Belgium was certainly entitled to have some compensatory advantage, and I felt sure that this had been particularly in the minds of all the members of the Council when they put forward Brussels. I also told him of the material advantages, such as communications, accommodation, the existence of Embassies and Legations in the town which at present made Brussels a peculiarly suitable choice. I gave him a copy of the telegram to President Wilson.

As regards the transfer of the Secretariat of the League to Brussels I explained to him that this had never been suggested, and gave to him a copy of the resolution passed by the Council authorising the Secretariat to remain in London till the Assembly; and added that, for my part, I entirely agreed with this procedure and that I could not undertake the responsibility of making arrangements for the Assembly and simultaneously transfer the Secretariat to another home.

Monsieur Ador and the Swiss minister seemed quite satisfied with my explanations, especially as the resolution passed by the Council mentioned the *date* of transfer and did not call in question the place.