

ANNEXE

AIDE-MÉMOIRE

Copie

London, 5th May 1938

His Majesty's Government have carefully examined the text of the memorandum which the Swiss Government have communicated to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations dealing with the subject of Swiss neutrality. In that memorandum the Swiss Government ask that the position of Switzerland as defined in the Declaration of London should be modified, that Switzerland should be released from her undertaking to apply economic and financial measures against a Covenant-breaking state, and that the resultant position of unconditional neutrality should, in the special circumstances of her case, be recognised as compatible with the provisions of the Covenant.

His Majesty's Government find themselves in sympathy with much that is put forward in this memorandum, and, in particular, they agree that Switzerland occupies a unique position resulting from the terms of the Treaties of 1815 and especially the Act of November 20th, 1815, Article 435 of the Treaty of Versailles and the Declaration of London of February 13th, 1920. In these circumstances His Majesty's Government are, for their part, ready to recognise the complete neutrality of Switzerland as being compatible with her membership of the League, on the understanding that Switzerland, for her part, will not by reason of her special position seek to place obstacles in the way of any collective measures which the members of the League may in the future agree to take in pursuance of their obligations under the Covenant.

His Majesty's Government note that in the memorandum submitted by the Swiss Government it is stated that Switzerland is honoured by being the seat of the League of Nations. His Majesty's Government understand from this statement that the Swiss Government will always be ready to facilitate the functioning of the League of Nations and its constituent bodies on Swiss territory.

These are the conclusions which His Majesty's Government have reached and they understand that their views are shared generally by the French Government. His Majesty's Government cannot, however, of course, predict what attitude the Council itself will adopt in this matter.

