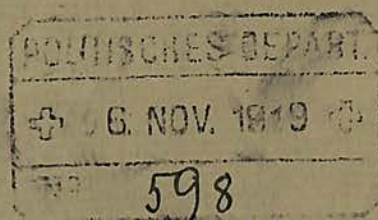


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6. Nov. 1919

His Britannic Majesty's Legation present their compliments to the Swiss Political Department, and have the honour to inform the Department that, in view of Clauses XXIII (f.), XXIV, and XXV of the Covenant of the League of Nations, His Majesty's Government have had under consideration the question of the establishment of a new organisation to deal with International Public Health, and have come to the conclusion that the already existing Office International d'Hygiène Publique should form part of such organisation.

(2) The British delegates to the meeting of the Office international, which was held in Paris in June last, were instructed to bring this question forward, which they did. Although no formal resolution to that effect could be proposed, the delegates present unanimously approved of the suggestion that the Office should be placed under the direction of the League of Nations in accordance with Article XXIV of the Covenant.

(3) In view of this suggestion the competent Department of His Majesty's Government, after consultation with the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, convened an informal conference to consider the question further. This conference was held in London on the 29th and 30th July, 1919, and consisted

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of representatives of the Public Health Services of Great Britain, United States of America, France, and Belgium and of the Office International d'Hygiène and the League of Red Cross Societies.

(4) After careful discussion the conference unanimously decided to request the competent Department of His Majesty's Government to take such steps as might be necessary to obtain the approval of the signatories to the Rome Convention of 1907 to the placing of the Office International d'Hygiène Publique under the direction of the League of Nations.

Acting on the instructions of His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Legation have the honour to enquire whether the Swiss Government approve of the principle of placing the Office International d'Hygiène under the direction of the League of Nations, and, if so, whether they will notify their delegate to the Office to that effect.

His Britannic Majesty's Legation take this opportunity to renew to the Swiss Political Department the assurance of their highest consideration.

B E R N E.

November 5, 1919.