

A.I.1946.

Geneva, February 4th, 1946.

CONVOCATION OF THE ASSEMBLY

1. In the telegram sent to Members of the League on September 20th, 1945 (document C.103.M.103.1945) [see Annex below], the Acting Secretary-General outlined, with the concurrence of the President of the Assembly, the President of the last session of the Council and the other members of the Supervisory Commission, a programme which the Members of the League have generally considered acceptable. It is expected that the work which they have thus entrusted to the Supervisory Commission, including discussions with the representatives of the United Nations, will be completed in the near future. As contemplated in the above-mentioned programme, the Assembly of the League must then "review the position and take final decisions concerning League activities" in a meeting which, it may be expected, would be the final meeting of the Assembly.

2. According to instructions received from M. C. J. Hambro, President of the Assembly, the Acting Secretary-General has the honour to summon the Assembly to meet in Geneva on Monday, April 8th, 1946, at 11 a.m.

3. It may help Governments in the appointment of their delegations to know that, in view of the various aspects of the questions to be discussed (a provisional agenda will be distributed as early as possible), the President of the Assembly considers that the Assembly may deem it useful to appoint two main Committees to deal respectively with: (a) General questions; and (b) Financial questions. A Legal Sub-Committee and other sub-committees will, as required, be appointed by the main Committees.

4. Though the Assembly decided on December 14th, 1939, not to close its session but to adjourn, it is clear that, after an interval of more than six years, the full powers of representatives issued in 1939 can no longer be considered valid. The Government of..... is accordingly requested to be good enough to communicate to the Acting Secretary-General, if possible one week before the meeting of the Assembly, the names and full powers of the representatives it has decided to appoint.

According to Rule 5, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the full powers "shall be issued either by the Head of the State or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs."

Annex

C.103.M.103.1945.

Geneva, October 19th, 1945.

QUESTION OF A POSSIBLE TRANSFER TO THE UNITED NATIONS OF CERTAIN FUNCTIONS, ACTIVITIES AND ASSETS OF THE LEAGUE

NOTE BY THE ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL.

The Acting Secretary-General has the honour to confirm the communications sent to the Members of the League on September 20th and October 17th, 1945, respectively. The second communication was forwarded on behalf of the Supervisory Commission after the latter had considered the answers received from Governments and, as was proposed in the last sentence of the first communication, assumed the assent of those Governments from which no reply had been received.

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I. *Communication of September 20th, 1945.*

States Members League Nations are aware of decisions taken at San Francisco which envisage replacement of League by United Nations. Executive Committee of United Nations is *inter alia* entrusted with duty to "formulate recommendations concerning possible transfer of certain functions activities and assets of League which it may be considered desirable for new Organisation to take over on terms to be arranged". Executive Committee is at present sitting in London and it seems advisable that competent League body should without delay discuss and so far as feasible formulate provisional terms of transfer. Those including disposal of material assets such as funds and buildings would be subject to final decision of League Assembly. I feel I shall be expressing wishes of States Members in suggesting Supervisory Commission should undertake this duty. It is specially competent in view of its knowledge of and association with League affairs under powers it has exercised in virtue of resolutions adopted by Assembly in 1938 and confirmed in 1939. I have ascertained that subject to concurrence of States Members Supervisory Commission is willing to accept this responsibility. Assembly will be convened early in coming year to review position and take final decisions concerning League activities. If Governments agree with above programme it is hoped a second session of Assembly may be avoided and post-Assembly responsibilities transferred to competent body designated by Assembly. In addition to essential preparatory work Supervisory Commission will also in pursuance of its emergency powers adopt budget for 1946 including credits for Assembly meeting. Secretariat budget would provide for maintenance of present non-political activities. Date of transfer is uncertain and contributing States would be credited with any unused part of their contributions appropriated for transferred services. Provision has also to be made for terminal charges for Secretariat and Permanent Court and for full year's activity of International Labour Organisation. In view of urgency of matter would welcome telegraphic acknowledgment of above communication with any observations Members of League may wish to submit. As early action may be required it is desirable that I be informed if States Members agree with programme outlined above with concurrence President of Assembly and Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Supervisory Commission. Unless therefore I receive replies from Governments before October 5th I shall assume their assent to programme.

LESTER,
Acting Secretary-General.

II. *Communication of October 17th, 1945.*

Procedure suggested my telegram September 20th having been considered generally acceptable by Governments Members League have honour inform you on behalf Supervisory Commission that it has accepted task entrusted it to discuss and so far as possible formulate provisional terms of transfer to United Nations subject to final decision by League Assembly to be convened early 1946. United Nations Executive Committee has been informed.

LESTER,
Acting Secretary-General.