

Rejected

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Excerpt from pages 505-506

APPEAL BY THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT.

The President -- The Assembly has today adopted, in virtue of Article 15 of the Covenant, its report on the appeal by the Finnish Government. At the end of this report, there are two resolutions, the second containing a recommendation by the Assembly to the Council. I should like to remind you of the text of this second resolution:

"Whereas, notwithstanding an invitation extended to it on two occasions, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has refused to be present at the examination of its dispute with Finland before the Council and the Assembly;

"And whereas, by thus refusing to recognize the duty of the Council and the Assembly as regards the execution of Article 15 of the Covenant, it has failed to observe one of the League's most essential covenants for the safeguarding of peace and the security of nations;

"And whereas it has vainly attempted to justify its refusal on the ground of the relations which it has established with an alleged Government which is neither de jure nor de facto

the government recognized by the people of Finland in accordance with the free working of their institutions;

"And whereas the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has not merely violated a covenant of the League, but has by its own action placed itself outside the Covenant;

"And whereas the Council is competent under Article 16 of the Covenant to consider what consequences should follow from this situation;

"Recommends the Council to pronounce upon the question."

As, in this second resolution, the Assembly has stated that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has not merely violated a covenant of the League but has by its own action placed itself outside the Covenant, and as it has recommended the Council to pronounce upon the question, I would remind you of the provisions of Article 16, paragraph 4:

"Any Member of the League which has violated any covenant of the League may be declared to be no longer a Member of the League by vote of the Council concurred in by the representatives of all the other Members of the League represented thereon."

Article 16, paragraph 4, of the Covenant, which I have just read to you, provides for a vote by the Member of the League represented on the Council. I accordingly submit for the Council's approval the following draft resolution:

"The Council,

"Having taken cognizance of the resolution adopted by the Assembly on December 14th, 1939, regarding the appeal of the Finnish Government;

"1. Associated itself with the condemnation of the Assembly of the action of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics against the Finnish State; and

"2. For the reasons set forth in the resolution of the Assembly,

"In virtue of Article 16, paragraph 4, of the Covenant,

" Finds, that, by its act, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has placed itself outside the League of Nations. It follows that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is no longer a member of the League."

I now invite you to discuss this draft resolution.

. . . . .

Excerpt from page 508

The president -- The Council will take note of the statements that have just been made and, as abstentions do not count in establishing unanimity, if there are no other observations I shall take it that the draft resolution has been adopted.

The resolution was adopted.