

M. Louis Barthou, the great Minister of France, an Academician, a powerful orator and as powerful a writer, who knew so admirably how to evoke some of the most formidable pages of his country's history, a conversationalist of charm and wit, was struck down by the side of the King at the moment when he had met the latter with a view to bringing to a satisfactory conclusion the negotiations between the two Governments in connection with an essential chapter in the momentous work of consolidating peace, a chapter to which the great French statesman had devoted himself with all the youthful vigour and indomitable energy of his soul.

His loss, which places in mourning, not only his own country, but the whole civilised world and the intellectual élite throughout the world, has been a double blow to me in my capacity as a citizen of my country, which was indebted to M. Barthou for unforgettable proofs of friendship and sympathy, for which Portugal is deeply grateful to him, as also—and in a particularly cruel measure—because of a personal friendship of which I was proud, a friendship which was none the less genuine because it was of all too short duration.

I declare the discussion closed.

(The discussion, which was suspended at 11.15 p.m., was resumed at 11.30 p.m.)

Mr. EDEN. — Before I read my report, I should like to express, on behalf of all my colleagues, our grateful thanks to our President, who, with characteristic courage, has insisted, in spite of physical illness, on presiding over our sitting, even at this late hour.

In the course of the discussion which has taken place during the last few days, the Council has heard the cases of the two parties fully presented by their representatives. I shall not attempt to summarise those cases.

It must be observed that the Council is not a court of justice. It has no means at its disposal for undertaking judicial enquiries. Its function is to assist the parties to re-establish the political relations which are desirable between Members of the League.

In these circumstances, it is my duty as Rapporteur to make proposals as to the action which the Council should take with a view to fulfilling its task. I have listened carefully to all that has been said on both sides during the debate, and I have acquainted myself with the documents. I am bound to say that, if the whole question of responsibility has not been completely elucidated, it none the less emerges that certain Hungarian authorities may have incurred, at any rate through negligence, certain responsibilities relative to acts connected with the preparation of the Marseilles crime. It is for this reason that I have thought it right that the Hungarian Government should itself undertake an enquiry and take the appropriate action as regards those of its authorities whose culpability may be established, reporting to the Council the steps which it has taken to this end.

I think, moreover, that the Council will wish the possibilities of international action for the repression of terrorism to be fully explored; the French delegation has presented to us a series of propositions (Annex 1524). With this object, I have made proposals for a careful study of the subject, in accordance with the Assembly resolution as to the preparatory procedure to be followed in the case of general conventions to be negotiated under the auspices of the League.

In conclusion, may I make one observation? The Council has in the past often appealed to the wisdom and spirit of conciliation of Governments who have reposed confidence in the League of Nations. None of these Governments will think to-day that I exceed my rights as Rapporteur if I formulate a hope, a very sincere hope, for that good understanding which should subsist between the parties and express my confidence that they will avoid anything which might be of a nature to compromise it.

I now have the honour to propose to the Council the following resolution: <sup>1</sup>

#### " I.

" The Council,

" Convinced that it interprets the sentiments of the whole League of Nations;

" Unanimously deploring the crime which occasioned the loss of the lives of the knightly King Alexander I of Yugoslavia, the Unifier, and of M. Louis Barthou:

" Condemns this odious crime;

" Associates itself with the mourning of the Yugoslav nation and of the French nation;

" And insists that all those responsible should be punished.

#### " II.

" The Council

" Recalls, that it is the duty of every State neither to encourage nor tolerate on its territory any terrorist activity with a political purpose;

" That every State must do all in its power to prevent and repress acts of this nature and must for this purpose lend its assistance to Governments which request it:

<sup>1</sup> Document C.543.1934.VII.

"Is of opinion that these duties devolve, in particular, on the Members of the League of Nations in view of the obligations of the Covenant in relation to the engagements they have undertaken to respect the territorial integrity and the existing political independence of the other Members.

" III.

"The Council,

"Desirous that the good understanding upon which peace depends should exist between Members of the League, and expressing its confidence that they will avoid anything which might be of a nature to compromise it;

"Noting that, as the result of the discussions which have taken place before the Council and of the documents which have been communicated to it—in particular, the diplomatic correspondence exchanged between the Hungarian and Yugoslav Governments from 1931 to 1934—various questions relative to the existence or the activities outside Yugoslav territory of terrorist elements have not been settled in a manner which has given satisfaction to the Yugoslav Government;

"Being of opinion, as the result of these discussions and documents, that certain Hungarian authorities may have assumed, at any rate through negligence, certain responsibilities relative to acts having a connection with the preparation of the crime of Marseilles;

"Considering, on the other hand, that it is incumbent on the Hungarian Government, conscious of its international responsibilities, to take at once appropriate punitive action in the case of any of its authorities whose culpability may be established;

"Convinced of the goodwill of the Hungarian Government to perform this duty:

"Requests it to communicate to the Council the measures it takes to this effect.

" IV.

"The Council,

"Considering that the rules of international law concerning the repression of terrorist activity are not at present sufficiently precise to guarantee efficiently international co-operation in this matter:

"Decides to set up a committee of experts to study this question with a view to drawing up a preliminary draft of an international convention to assure the repression of conspiracies or crimes committed with a political and terrorist purpose;

"Decides that this committee shall be composed of eleven members, the Governments of Belgium, Chile, the United Kingdom, France, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Roumania, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Spain and Switzerland, each being invited to appoint a member;

"Refers to this committee for examination the suggestions which have been presented to the Council by the French Government, and requests other Governments which may wish to present suggestions to send them to the Secretary-General, so that they may be examined by the committee;

"Invites the committee to report to the Council, so that the latter may apply the procedure laid down in the resolution of the Assembly of September 25th, 1931, concerning the drawing up of general conventions negotiated under the auspices of the League of Nations."

*A vote was taken by roll-call.*

*The resolution was adopted unanimously by the Members of the Council, including the parties concerned.*

M. LAVAL. — In the moving discussion with is now closing I have been concerned, as the interpreter of my country's feelings, to give the Yugoslav delegation the unreserved support of France. The Yugoslav representative, to whose wisdom I am happy to pay my tribute, has just acceded to the resolution proposed by our Rapporteur. I, too, accede to that resolution.

That resolution interprets our unanimous feelings in associating the League of Nations with Yugoslavia's mourning. It enunciates principles; it records facts; it draws the consequences of those facts. It now depends on the Hungarian Government, on the determination with which the latter conducts the enquiries which we expect of it, to make possible the pacification of which M. Titulesco has just spoken.

As for the Council, it can claim that it has not failed in its noble mission. Once again, the League of Nations has deserved well of peace.

Baron ALOISI. — On behalf of my Government, I had the honour to accede to the resolution submitted by the Rapporteur.

I am particularly gratified to note that this text gives effect to our desires, inasmuch as it affords a happy solution to a dispute calculated to compromise good international understanding.

Our confidence in the impartiality and ability of the United Kingdom representative has thus been confirmed by the facts, promptly and brilliantly. I am anxious, therefore, to offer him once more my most sincere congratulations.

The PRESIDENT. — It only remains for me to thank the Rapporteur for his kind words and to associate myself with the eloquent tribute paid to him by the representatives of France and Italy.

An appeal was made to the League of Nations. The League has done its duty. The road to peace is open. It remains only to follow it.