



(c) crown copyright

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT.)

C R E T .

COPY NO

C A B I N E T 12 (25).

Meeting of the Cabinet to be held in the Prime Minister's Room at the House of Commons, on Monday, March 2nd. 1925 at 4 p.m.

A G E N D U M .

THE GENEVA PROTOCOL & SECURITY.

Memorandum by the Chairman of the Committee of Imperial Defence.

(C.P.105 (25) - already circulated).  
with the following enclosures:-

- (i) Report of Sub-Committee (C.I.D.Paper 559-B)
- (ii) Draft Letter to Secretary-General, League of Nations. (C.I.D.Paper 589-B).
- (iii) Minutes of 190th, 192nd, 195th and 196th Meetings of the Committee of Imperial Defence.

Note by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs covering a Memorandum prepared in the Foreign Office.  
(C.P.106 (25) - already circulated).

Note by Secretary of state for India covering Telegram from the Government of India.  
(C.P.111 (25) - already circulated).

Memorandum by Lord Cecil.  
(C.P.112 (25) - already circulated).

Memorandum by the Secretary of state for War covering a Memorandum by the General Staff.  
(C.P.116 (25) - To be circulated).

Memorandum by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.  
(C.P.118 (25) - To be circulated).

Memorandum by Secy for Air

[CP 121 (25)]

Memorandum by Secy for Aggr

[CP 122 (25)]

(Signed) M.P.A. HANKEY,  
Secretary, Cabinet.

2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1.

26th February, 1925.

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT).

S E C R E T.

COPY NO. 1.

C A B I N E T 12(25).

CONCLUSIONS of a Meeting of the Cabinet held  
at the House of Commons, S.W.1., on MONDAY,  
MARCH 2nd, 1925, at 4 P.M.

PRESENT:-

The Right Hon. Stanley Baldwin, M.P.,  
Prime Minister. (In the Chair).

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| The Right Hon.<br>Austen Chamberlain, M.P.,<br>Secretary of State for<br>Foreign Affairs.              | The Most Hon.<br>The Marquess Curzon of Kedleston,<br>K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,<br>Lord President of the Council. |
| The Right Hon.<br>Viscount Cave, G.C.M.G.,<br>Lord Chancellor.   | The Most Hon.<br>The Marquess of Salisbury,<br>K.G., G.C.V.O., C.B.,<br>Lord Privy Seal.                          |
| The Right Hon.<br>W.S. Churchill, C.H., M.P.,<br>Chancellor of the Exchequer.                          | The Right Hon.<br>L.S. Amery, M.P., Secretary<br>of State for the Colonies.                                       |
| The Right Hon.<br>Sir Laming Worthington-Evans,<br>Bart., G.B.E., M.P., Secretary<br>of State for War. | The Right Hon.<br>Sir Samuel Hoare, Bart.,<br>C.M.G., M.P., Secretary of<br>State for Air.                        |
| The Right Hon.<br>W.C. Bridgeman, M.P.,<br>First Lord of the Admiralty.                                | The Right Hon.<br>Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister,<br>K.B.E., M.C., M.P., President<br>of the Board of Trade.          |
| The Right Hon.<br>Neville Chamberlain, M.P.,<br>Minister of Health.                                    | The Right Hon.<br>E.F.L. Wood, M.P., Minister<br>of Agriculture and Fisheries.                                    |
| The Right Hon.<br>Sir John Gilmour, Bart., D.S.O.,<br>M.P., Secretary for Scotland.                    | The Right Hon.<br>Lord Eustace Percy, M.P.,<br>President of the Board of<br>Education.                            |
| The Right Hon.<br>Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, Bart.,<br>M.P., Minister of Labour.                       | The Right Hon.<br>Viscount Peel, G.B.E., First<br>Commissioner of Works.  |
| The Right Hon.<br>Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, K.C.,<br>Chancellor of the Duchy of<br>Lancaster.        | The Right Hon.<br>Sir Douglas Hogg, K.C., M.P.,<br>Attorney-General.  |

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT:-

The Right Hon. The Earl of Balfour, K.G., O.M.,

.....

Sir M.P.A. Hankey, G.C.B., .....Secretary.

THE GENEVA  
PROTOCOL  
AND SECURITY.

1. The Cabinet had before them the following documents in regard to the Geneva Protocol and the question of British, French and Belgian security:-

- A Memorandum by the Chairman of the Committee of Imperial Defence (Paper C.P.-105 (25)), with the following enclosures:-
- (i) Report of Sub-Committee (C.I.D. Paper No.559-B),
  - (ii) Draft Letter to Secretary-General, League of Nations (C.I.D. Paper No.589-B),
  - (iii) Minutes of 190th, 192nd, 195th and 196th Meetings of the Committee of Imperial Defence.

A Note by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, covering a Memorandum prepared in the Foreign Office (Paper C.P.-106 (25)).

A Note by the Secretary of State for India, covering Telegram from the Government of India (Paper C.P.-111 (25)).

A Memorandum by Lord Cecil (Paper C.P.-112 (25)).

A Memorandum by the Secretary of State for War, covering a Memorandum by the General Staff (Paper C.P.-116 (25)).

A Memorandum by the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Paper C.P.-118 (25)).

A Memorandum by the Secretary of State for Air (Paper C.P.-121 (25)).

A Memorandum by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Paper C.P.-122 (25)).

After reviewing all aspects of the above questions, the Cabinet agreed --

- (a) To accept the view of the Committee of Imperial Defence, which is confirmed by the reports so far received from the Dominions and India, that the Geneva Protocol is open to grave objection and cannot be accepted:
- (b) That a reply to the League in the form of a simple rejection of the Protocol, without any attempt to pave the way to some alternative plan in regard to the vital question of national security, is to be

deprecated as calculated to prolong the present state of insecurity and tension in Europe which it is the aim of His Majesty's Government to allay:

- (c) That, with a view to the further consideration of the alternative policy to be adopted, the following documents should be drawn up before the next Meeting of the Cabinet, on Wednesday March 4th:-
- (i) By the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs: On the basis of a rough draft prepared during the Meeting (Appendix) which represented the general trend of the Cabinet's view, a formula which Mr Austen Chamberlain could use in his forthcoming conversations with M. Herriot in Paris while en route to Geneva, as a general guide (subject to reasonable latitude for purposes of negotiation) on the question of security, or, if he should so desire, as an aide-memoire to be handed to M. Herriot:
  - (ii) By the Earl of Balfour, in concert with the Foreign Secretary: A revise of the draft despatch to the League, giving reasons for the rejection of the Protocol (C.I.D. Paper 589-B), in order to attune it to the policy suggested in the Appendix, and with a view to its being read by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs at the forthcoming meeting of the Council of the League and published simultaneously in this country:
  - (iii) By the Secretary of State for the Colonies: A telegram or telegrams to the Dominions, notifying them of the action which it was now proposed to take, and communicating a summary or the text of such documents as he might deem desirable:
- (d) That the Lord President of the Council, in replying to a Question to be asked by Lord Parmoor in the House of Lords on Tuesday, March 3rd, should indicate the probability that papers would be published in the near future, and should, as far as possible, avoid giving any indication at this stage of the trend of the Government's policy:

- (e) That the Committee of Imperial Defence should examine the military aspects of a quadrilateral agreement between France, Germany, Great Britain and Belgium, as suggested in the Appendix.

SINGAPORE.

previous  
reference:  
Cabinet 2  
(25), Con-  
clusion 6.)

2. The Cabinet approved a Memorandum by the Chairman of the Committee of Imperial Defence (Paper C.P.-124 (25)), the principal recommendations of which were:-

That the site for a floating dock at Singapore should be in the Old Strait, as proposed by the Admiralty and approved in 1922 by the Committee of Imperial Defence;

That the site for the aerodrome and seaplane station should be on the South shore of the Old Strait, as previously approved; and

That the programme of work for the next few years should be as follows:-

Description of Works.	EXPENDITURE.			Totals.
	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	
floating dock and connected works	V. 10 .. 184,000 V. 8 .. ..	£ 191,000 40,000	£ 201,000 35,000	£ 576,000 75,000
Buildings and trial pits, anti-malarial work, landing site, etc. ....	10,000	25,000	..	35,000.
Water Supply .....	10,000	50,000	41,000	101,000.
Totals .....	204,000	306,000	277,000	787,000

.....

2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1,

March 2, 1925.

A P P E N D I X.ROUGH DRAFT FORMULA ON SECURITY.

His Majesty's Government do not feel able to enter into a dual pact with France with or without Belgium. The question of a quadrilateral agreement between France, Germany, Great Britain, Belgium and, if possible, with the accord of Italy, for mutual security [and for guaranteeing each other's frontiers in the West of Europe], stands on a different footing and might become a great assurance to the peace of Europe and lead to a rapid reduction of armaments. His Majesty's Government have, of course, in these matters to carry with them the assent, or at least the good will, of the various self-governing Dominions of the British Empire. If the French Government share the views of His Majesty's Government and will regulate their action towards Germany accordingly, His Majesty's Government will, for their part, begin the necessary discussions with the Dominions, and in all their policy will endeavour to further the common cause.

. . .