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Geneva,
15th March, 1924.

All has gone well at the meeting of the Council of the League of Nations. My Colleagues greeted me very cordially as representative of the British Government, and we have all worked together to promote League principles and League influence. I am told that the Session has been one of unusual success, in the number of difficult subjects which have been either settled or placed in the way of settlement. These include Saar, Danzig, Memel, and the very troublesome question of Polish nationality, and the rights of German residents in what is now Poland. Mr. Branting has worked very closely with me, but all my colleagues have readily accepted suggestions which appeared to me to be in support both of settlement and of League principles.

I should like to add a special word about M. Hanotaux, the French representative, Naturally matters of difference of any importance in our discussions arose mainly between M. Hanotaux and myself, especially
on questions in which Poland was directly interested, but we carried these through without friction and acted very cordially together in matters on which we were in agreement. I feel much indebted to him for the attitude which he has, throughout, adopted.

I have had cordial relationships with Dr. Beneš and talked much with him. He is in rather a difficult position, but has loyally worked for a settlement of League questions on League principles.

I have been very much interested in noting the friendly effect of the meeting of the Council of the League on the representatives of different countries and governments. There is a very general regret that Germany is not a member of the League, but in this matter I should wish to talk with you at a convenient time.

There were also present at the meetings of the Council two Americans, who had carried through difficult negotiations with great skill and success - Mr. Morgenthau and Mr. Norman Davis. They both expressed to me the hope that America would join the League, and thought that this would be brought about at no very distant date.

The attitude of my colleagues towards a representative of a Labour Government, was in an especial way appreciative. They constantly emphasised the value of your work and of the advantage of combining labour with an intellectual and pacifist outlook in directing the future of democratic thought and of democratic action.

Such is a short account of my visit here. I wish that more could have been known of our work in London and that the real essential spirit of friendliness and co-operation between the representatives of all countries here could have been more fully understood.
I think I should write a continuation of my former letter to you about the work of the Council, having regard to the statements which have appeared concerning the proceedings of the last day.

I should like you to know shortly what the facts are. The points raised during the meeting of the Council in connection with the Saar comprised:

1. A gendarmerie question.
2. The passage of Saar inhabitants through neighbouring occupied territory.
3. Election of two members to the Governing Commission.

On (1), after discussion, it was agreed on my resolution that so soon as the financial conditions in the Saar allowed additions should be made to the gendarmerie, even during the current year. The Financial Member of the Governing Commission of the Saar is Mr. Stevens, a Canadian, and he stated that immediate financial difficulties had arisen from the hundred days coal strike, and from the loss on railway traffic consequent on the strike, and on the conditions in the neighbouring occupied territories.

As to (2) the French withdrew all difficulties and the matter was settled in a friendly spirit.

As to (3) the two members elected were Herr Kossmann and Colonel Espinosa de los Monteros. Herr Kossmann, after considerable negotiation initiated by Lord Cecil on behalf of the British Government, was accepted by M. Hanotaux on behalf
of the French Government. This, of course, was before I became the British representative. Full enquiries were made, and I cannot understand from what source the suggestions made in "The Times" statement can have originated, and I am sure that they are quite unfair to Herr Kossmann. There was no discussion, and all members of the Council were agreed. I may add that Herr Kossmann has been for many years Secretary of a Miners' Trade Union, was member of the German Reichstag from 1912-1918, and member of the Weimar Constituent Assembly elected after the German revolution. Herr Kossmann's qualifications will be found in a note attached.

On the election of Colonel Espinosa de los Monteros, M. Branting proposed in opposition, M. Keek, a Protestant Norwegian. Personally, I supported M. Branting, but we were defeated by seven votes to three.

I feel obliged to protest against the allegations made in "The Times" statement about the member elected. I should have preferred the Norwegian, but the recommendations of the Spaniard were such that no special objection could be taken to his election. Should you have an opportunity perhaps you might read a letter by Mr. Wilson Harris in "The Times" to-day.

It is more important that I should express to you my view of the friendly attitude throughout of the French Government. There was no question of controversial difference but a friendly co-operation, although naturally some difference of opinion. I was much struck at Geneva by the desire of all members of the Council to reach a fair settlement, and this may in part be attributed to the influence of the support which you have given to the League.
I was told by Sir Eric Drummond that the meeting of the Council had been unusually successful in the amount and character of the business transacted, and that he did not think that any previous meeting had done quite so much.

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2, Whitehall Gardens, S...l.
March 20th, 1934.
M. Kossmann, Chairman of the Advisory Council.

M. Bartholomeus Kossmann was born on the 2nd October, 1833, at Eppelborn (district of Ottweiler) in the Saar, where his father was a butcher. Becoming an orphan at an early age, Bartholomeus Kossmann left the communal school when 14 years old and became an assistant in the burgomaster's office at Eppelborn. Being obliged to support a large family, he gave up office work soon after and became a miner. Between the ages of 16 and 22 he was employed as pikeman in the Prussian State mines in the Saar.

Having joined the trades unions, he soon attracted the attention of the leaders of the Catholic Workmen's groups, who sent him at the age of 23 to follow a course in political economy at the trades unions' schools in Berlin. In 1906 he was engaged as secretary to the Saar Catholic Workmen's Associations, and his activities extended even as far as the Lorraine coal basin.

In 1909 M. Kossmann was elected for the first time as member of the Centre party to the municipal council of Neunkirchen. In 1910 the Centre party selected him as candidate for the Reichstag for the electoral district of Ottweiler, Saint-Wendel and Medelsheim. He was a member of the German Reichstag from 1912 to 1918, and sat in the large committees of the Imperial Assembly. After the revolution of 1918 he was elected on the ticket of the Catholic party to the German Constituent Assembly at Weimar, and also represented the districts of Treves and Coblenz in the Prussian Landtag. Meanwhile, as secretary of the trades union, he had been appointed chairman of the German Catholic miners' groups.
During the military occupation of the Saar Basin after the armistice, as representative of the people, M. Kossmann organised, at the suggestion of the Central Administration of the Saar, a commission for fixing the price of provisions ("Oberpreisprüfungskommission") and an economic council ("Wirtschaftsrat"), and was put at the head of both organisations.

When the Governing Commission took up its duties, M. Kossmann was appointed chief of section ("Oberregierungsrat") in the Department of Social Welfare; his principal task was the regional organisation of public relief and of officers for the relief of invalids and persons disabled in the war.

The Governing Commission, at its meeting of the 11th July, 1922, appointed M. Kossmann chairman of the Advisory Council of the Saar Territory ("Landesrat").

M. Kossmann is an able politician and an excellent official and, moreover, he is a self-made man. The part he has played in the political life of the Saar territory, his thorough knowledge of the working classes and of trades union organisation, added to the numerous ties which he has preserved with the Centre party to which he still belongs, all combine to give him great authority among Catholic circles in the Saar territory.