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To: Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Aytan
Mr. Rafael
Mr. Tckoa

From: Shabtai Rosenne

The expression "demilitarization" (or "demilitarized zone") does not possess a precise definition in international law though as it appears in several international treaties it obviously has some legal definition. Oppenheim (paragraph 72) defines demilitarization as "The agreement of two or more States by treaty not to fortify, or station troops upon, a particular zone of territory; the purpose usually being to prevent war by removing the opportunity of conflict as a result of frontier incidents, or to gain security by prohibiting the concentration of troops on a frontier."

He warns, quite correctly, against confusing demilitarization with neutralization and internationalization.

In the late 20's the League of Nations also devoted some attention to the question of demilitarization and the possibility of using this device as a means of increasing international security. The following passage appears in a report by the Greek statesman, M. Politis, published on page 490 of the records of the Plenary Meeting of the Ninth Assembly of the League of Nations:

"... as regards the establishment of demilitarised zones, it was recognised that, while they are often capable of giving the nations concerned a greater sense of security, this is not always the case. Here again, all depends on circumstances. If the contracting parties or some of them consider it useful to establish such zones on their frontiers, they may do so by means of special conventions.

During the discussion before the Third Committee, it was suggested that it might be well for the Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference or the Committee on Arbitration and Security, to draw up model regulations for demilitarised zones. Such a model might no doubt greatly facilitate negotiations between States who were prepared to establish a zone or zones along their frontiers. In the proceedings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union we already possess interesting suggestions in this connection, in particular, a preliminary draft of "General Regulations" for demilitarised zones, voted by the Union at its conference at Washington in 1925."

I am endeavouring to obtain the text of the preliminary draft of the Inter-Parliamentary Union there referred to.

M.A.