[Translation]


Speech made by Foreign Minister Baron Breker-Waldenburg before the Assembly of the League of Nations on September 11, 1929.

"As early as 1920, at the first full assembly of the League, Austria was received in the community of nations. In the one and a half decades which have elapsed since that time, Austria - you will admit - has given repeated proof of its loyalty to the great principles of international solidarity and cooperation. The reconstruction of the finances of my country, which repeatedly found recognition in the reports of the last few years of the Committee of Finance, was carried through in close agreement with the League of Nations. I believe that I say the right thing, if I consider this as one of the most remarkable successes of the League itself.

My fatherland has proved that it is ready to postpone contemplated measures (eigene Initiativen sukzessiven), in order to preserve the principle of collective cooperation. However, such cooperation is possible only where all the collaborators have the possibility of maintaining their freedom, sovereignty and independence, against all attacks, by their own resources.

For this reason we have never left any doubt that we must demand recognition of full equality of rights in all domains. This full equality of rights on the part of all states which fulfill their obligations towards mankind and the League of Nations, is the preliminary condition for any further step on the road of the organization of peace. More than that, it is so to speak the indispensable condition for the creation of general security.

If progress has just recently been noticeable in the sense that it has proven impossible to perpetuate certain inequalities created by the Peace Treaties, this gratifying fact gives us the right to assume that the different measures cannot be applied and that states cannot be divided into those enjoying preferential treatment and those enjoying less preferential treatment. The British Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sir Samuel Hoare, stressed in his speech of today the fact that "in any case a certain elasticity, wherever necessary, also forms a part of security." I do not think that the logic consequences of this view should stop halfway. Austria is one of the oldest cultural factors, situated in the heart of Europe: it has a lofty mission to which it must remain true, in its own well-understood interest as well as in the interest of the European continent. The course followed by Austria for the last 18 years is therefore in our opinion the right one, because it leads to a further..."
further strengthening of peace and thus creates the necessary basis of a general economic development.

Despite the serious international tension, under the influence of which the present session of the League is beginning its work, we Austrians hope that it will be possible to adhere to the fundamental policy of European cooperation. We are aware of the fact that in this way we not only serve the interests of our country, but remain true to the mission of Austria, to work for peace.

It is in the direct interest of the idea of the League of Nations that it should bring to an end the state of inequality among its members. For cooperation can be satisfactory only if Austria enjoys the other members of the League as a factor enjoying full equality of rights.

"Without equality of rights for all, there can be no general security, without it there could be no co-operation capable of satisfying all the members."