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ARMS CONVENTION and
LIQUOR CONVENTION

1919

August

Previous Paper.

Telegram for Mr. Balfour, Paris

9319 S

in a letter

to Party. Dear

13 P. of

H. J. R.

14/8/19

Then 2 papers 34317

46065/14

Let us see

FRANCE

POLITICAL

Telegram (en clair) from Mr. Baillet-Latour

Dated August 31st, 1919

AMB.

traffic ... the revision of the Berlin and Brussels Acts in accordance with the precedent adopted in the Polish treaty and other treaties under discussion here, these conventions which form part of the general peace settlement entered into in the name of the British Empire should be signed by the representatives of the Dominions and of India.

2. The negotiation of the arms convention and the liquor convention began before the Dominion plenipotentiaries left Paris, and Dominion representatives were consulted on their terms and took part in the discussions. The departure of the Dominion plenipotentiaries has however prevented their taking any part in the discussions on the Spitzbergen convention or on the convention for the revision of the Berlin and Brussels Acts. It is, therefore, desirable to acquaint the Dominion Governments briefly with the contents and with the present position of these conventions.

3. The Spitzbergen convention is under preparation by a committee of the conference (see my Despatch No. 1335 of July 21st) and provides for the recognition of Norwegian sovereignty over the group subject to safeguards

C.O. 533 / 218
 PUBLIC AT THE
 OFFICE OF THE
 SECRETARY OF STATE
 FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
 LONDON

of Commerce,
... satisfactory
... and equitable treatment of
... risks. Representatives of the
... have not yet been heard by the
... opinion of French, Italian and United
... satisfied means of payment in favour
... rather than by means of
... agree with this view.
... impose no obligations
... and recognition of Norwegian sovereignty
... no burden upon the Dominions.

... follows the general
... French and
... representative and their
... decided
... imposes no restrictions
... war
... of the Empire

territories
Asia. On these a
changed since the ear
discussions in Paris.
5. The draft liquor convention subjects the
liquor traffic throughout Central Africa to rigorous
control, prohibits the importation of trade spirits, in-
creases the minimum duties on other spirits, and prohibits,
except

(3)

except in one area their local manufacture. This one area is the 14 than colonies where different considerations apply where spirits manufactured locally are subject to a duty as high as equal to the import duty.

6. Text of 1926 is... the same and liquor... For eign... will be... directly... text is... submitted to the committee.

7. The... on... the... and... bring... its... provisions... of the... of the League of... but removes... on the amount of import... this has been found in practice to be contrary to the interests of good administration.

Please inform Colonial Office.

(12.8/84).