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# The League of Nations Union.

PRESIDENT .. VISCOUNT GREY OF FALLODON, K.G.

HON. PRESIDENTS .. THE RT. HON. D. LLOYD GEORGE, O.M., M.P.  
THE RT. HON. H. H. ASQUITH, K.C., M.P.  
THE RT. HON. A. J. BALFOUR, O.M., M.P.

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## OUTLINE OF POLICY

With regard to the Projected Federation of  
the League of Nations Societies.

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1. **A**T the Conference of League of Nations Societies held at Brussels, on December 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1919, a proposal was considered and accepted for the formation of a Federation which would unite in common action all societies established for the purpose of working for the progress of the principles laid down in the Covenant of the League of Nations and following out the application of those principles.
2. Rules were drawn up for the constitution of this Federation, providing for each country to be represented in the Federation by one society ; for a Plenary Assembly to meet from time to time, consisting of not more than 10 delegates for each country ; for a General Council composed of two members from each society to supervise the general work of the Federation and provide for the execution of the decisions of the Plenary Assemblies ; and for a Central Bureau to carry on the detailed business of the Federation under the direction of the General Council, the office of the Bureau and the headquarters of the Federation being located at Brussels.
3. The Rules were only adopted provisionally, subject to re-consideration and revision at the next Conference, which it was decided should be held at Rome.

4. The International Policy Committee of the League of Nations Union have considered the question of the general policy which ought to be adopted by the Union on this matter, particularly with a view to the further development of the proposal at the Conference in Rome, and the Management Committee, upon their recommendation, have decided to adopt the following line of action and to invite general co-operation with the League of Nations Union in this policy, so that the formation of the Federation may be completed on a satisfactory basis at Rome with the minimum of difficulty and discussion.

5. It is recommended that a definite date should be fixed for the Rome Conference, so that all societies may make their arrangements well in advance and may give ample notice of any resolutions they propose to put forward. The provisional rules settled at Brussels contemplated that under the Federation three months' notice to the General Council should be required for the proposal of modification of the Rules.

6. It is suggested that Saturday, May 8th, 1920, at 10 a.m., would be a convenient day and hour for the meeting of the Conference, if this meets the approval of the Italian Society, and that the Conference should continue in Session until Wednesday, May 12th.

7. There being at present no such General Council in existence as is contemplated under the provisional rules, it appears desirable that a Provisional Committee should be formed, on a similar basis, for the purpose of making all necessary arrangements for the Conference at Rome.

8. It is suggested that, in order to constitute this Provisional Committee, each national League of Nations Society should be asked to nominate two representatives, and that the Committee thus formed should meet in Paris at the invitation of the Italian Society.

9. It is recommended that steps should be taken at the earliest possible moment to settle upon the amendments of the provisional rules to be proposed at Rome, and that these amendments should include the following:—

- (A) Admitting to membership of the Federation of Societies a representative Society in any country which is either a member of the League of Nations or named in the Annexe to the Covenant or accepted by a majority of the Societies in the Federation.
- (B) Fixing the seat of the Federation at the seat of the League instead of at Brussels.
- (C) Entitling each Society to have three members, instead of two, on the General Council of the Federation (so that, in case of difference of opinion, a majority of the three may decide how a vote shall be given).
- (D) Requiring that, unless and until the Federation adopts a single language for all its proceedings, English and French shall be used at all conferences and meetings of the Plenary Assembly and the General Council, and all speeches made and resolutions proposed in one of these languages shall forthwith be translated into the other.

10. The Management and International Policy Committees of the League of Nations Union are also of opinion that an endeavour should be made to secure, as far as possible, that in every country (without regard to its position in the war) there shall be a League of Nations Society representative of all classes of the population, and further to secure, as far as possible, that all these representative League of Nations Societies should adopt statements of objects substantially in accord.

11. Seeing that the League of Nations Union has very carefully revised its own statement of objects since the Covenant of the League of Nations was framed, the Committees venture to suggest that other societies might be asked to consider whether that statement does not provide a suitable formula for general adoption.

(Signed) ROBERT CECIL,

*Chairman of Management Committee.*

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION,  
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*February, 1920.*

N.B.—To meet the general convenience the dates suggested for the Rome Conference in para. 6 have now been finally settled as Saturday, 5th June, to Wednesday, 9th June, inclusive.