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Geneva, May 8th, 1939.

SITUATION IN SPAIN: WITHDRAWAL OF NON SPANISH COMBATANTS.

ACTION TAKEN IN EXECUTION OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL
DATED SEPTEMBER 30th, 1938.

NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL.

The Secretary-General has the honour to communicate to the Members of the Council the following documents:

- a) Communication from the Committee of Three to the Members of the Council.
- b) Complementary Report of the International Military Commission appointed to verify the withdrawal of non-Spanish combatants in Spain from the Barcelona and Valencia zones.

SITUATION IN SPAIN: WITHDRAWAL OF NON-SPANISH COMBATANTS.
ACTION TAKEN IN EXECUTION OF THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF
SEPTEMBER 30th, 1938.

Communication from the Committee of Three
to the Members of the Council.

On January 16th last, the Committee of Three submitted to the Council, together with the interim report of the Military Commission, its own report and a draft resolution. When adopting the draft resolution, the Council took note of the provisional report of the Commission, and prolonged the term allotted to it for the discharge of its duties for a period of one month to enable it to complete its work. The Military Commission has now (May 1st) sent in its final report to the Committee of Three. Having examined that report, the Committee finds that, in general, it confirms anticipations, and that it supplements the data given in the report submitted last January.

Accordingly, the Committee regards the Commission's task as completed, and does not see any necessity for the question to be placed on the agenda of the next Council session.

COMPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY COMMISSION
APPOINTED TO VERIFY THE WITHDRAWAL OF NON-SPANISH COMBATANTS
IN SPAIN FROM THE BARCELONA AND VALENCIA ZONES.

1. The International Military Commission appointed by decision of the Council of the League of Nations in September 1938 submitted to the Council, at its session in January 1939, an interim report on its work during the period from the date of its arrival in Spain (October 15th, 1938) to the date of the Council session (January 15th, 1939).

2. The present report gives a brief account of the findings arrived at by the Commission between January 16th and February 16th, 1939, on which latter date it ceased its work, i.e., on the expiry of the supplementary period allowed to it by the Council at its January session.

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3. At the date of the interim report, the number of non-Spanish combatants counted by the International Military Commission in accordance with the provisions of the plan of withdrawal was as follows:

Barcelona zone	9,843
Valencia zone	<u>2,830</u>
	12,673

4. During the night of January 14th-15th, the Commission had verified the departure from Valencia for Barcelona of 2,682 volunteers, who were included in the same measures of evacuation as their compatriots. It was understood that the volunteers remaining in the Valencia zone could not be taken off for want of space.

5. Almost all the international volunteers who were still in the two zones at the date of the interim report finally crossed the French frontier before February 10th, and the Commission was able to draw up a nominal roll of them.

6. The total number of international volunteers whose departure from Spain was verified was 12,688, made up as follows:

Volunteers who left Spain and were sent to their countries of origin or former residence between October 22nd 1938 and February 5th, 1939	5,850
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Volunteers who left Spain be- tween February 5th and 10th 1939 and were regrouped in French territory	<u>6,838</u>
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Total ... 12,688

This total is within 15 men of the total number counted. Actually, the difference between the number counted and the number evacuated is a little larger. It may be explained as follows:

In the first place, military developments having accentuated the stream of evacuations from Catalonia up to the point at which almost everybody was leaving, the Commission found that certain volunteers who had been authorised to remain in Spain in virtue of the clauses of the plan of withdrawal had nevertheless left at the same time as the other non-Spanish combatants. The reference is to a number of foreigners who were living in Spain before the civil war and had enlisted in the governmental army, and also to a few former international combatants who had been transferred to war factories or certain administrative services prior to the Commission's arrival in Spain, and consequently did not come under the provisions of the plan of withdrawal, but who nevertheless crossed the Franco-Spanish frontier at the same time as their ex-combatant compatriots. These were included in the total of volunteers leaving Spain.

In the second place, certain volunteers who had been counted were not checked on leaving. Some had died or had been obliged to remain in Spain; the Commission was informed of a few cases of this kind. Furthermore, as has been seen above, 148 volunteers who had been counted in the Valencia zone did not arrive in the Barcelona zone.

Lastly, among those reported as having left, some could not be identified with certainty, and the Commission is not able to say whether they had been counted or not. The Commission was told, for example, that a small number had succeeded in crossing the frontier individually. In addition, 211 volunteers, seriously wounded or sick, who were included in the figure of 12,688, were sent by various means, with the Commission's knowledge, to French hospitals from which the Commission did not have time before the expiry of its mandate (February 16th) to obtain details. In all probability, however, these sick and wounded men had not escaped counting in Spain.

7. In brief, the Commission was unable to verify the position in greater detail on account of the developments that took place. It can, however, affirm that, in view of the small number of volunteers whose exact position it was unable to determine, the number counted and the number reported as having left may be taken as representing approximately the number of non-Spanish combatants present in the Barcelona and Valencia zones on October 16th, 1938, and checked at the French frontier before February 16th, 1939.

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8. The attached summary table shows the number and nationalities of the non-Spanish volunteers whose departures from Spain were checked by the Commission, together with the dates of those departures.

May 1st, 1939.

General B. Jalander,
President of the International
Military Commission.

Brigadier A.L.M. Molesworth)
Lieutenant Colonel E. Homo) Commissioners.

Lieutenant Colonel R. Bach,
Secretary of the Commission.

ANNEX TO THE REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY COMMISSION ENTRUSTED WITH THE VERIFICATION OF THE WITHDRAWAL ON NON-SPANISH COMBATANTS IN SPAIN, IN THE BARCELONA AND VALENCIA ZONES

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