

C o p y

BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS

Basle, February 25, 1935.

N. Rygg, Esq.,
Governor,
Norges Bank,
O S L O.

Dear Governor Rygg,

Let me answer your kind enquiry of February 21 by saying first that no country in the world has declined to grant the proposed immunities to the B.I.S. with the exception of Siam, which gave as its only reason "the fact that as there is at present no central bank operating in this country, the question does not yet arise".

Attached hereto marked List A are the names of the 23 Governments of the world which have definitely and finally accorded the privileges. Also attached is a List B giving the names of 6 Governments which have stated that they have, in principle, decided to make the grant and that the necessary legal steps are now being considered. In addition, the Central Banks of a number of other countries (such as Sweden) have informally advised us that so far as they are concerned they are agreeable to the measures, and are making favourable recommendations to their respective Governments. The United States of America replied to M. Avenol when it received his circular that they were not at that moment ready to proceed, but added - "When and as circumstances may change, it will be ready to reconsider its position."

I hope the foregoing will give you sufficient data to press your Government to definite action. Above all, I wish to emphasize the fact that this is not merely a selfish effort on the part of the B.I.S. to secure something for itself. We are securing these privileges for the benefit of all Central

Banks having deposits or gold with us. The Bank of Norway is already in a position to secure the advantages of Article X in the countries which have agreed to it to the extent that it at any time hereafter may entrust us with deposits or gold. What we are trying to attain is reciprocity so that let us say, if the Bank of Belgium or the Bank of Switzerland should entrust us with gold or deposits to be held in Norway, these Banks would enjoy the same position there as you now enjoy if we were holding any assets originating with you in the vaults or on the accounts of the Bank of Belgium or the Bank of Switzerland.

With thanks for your kind assistance,

Believe me,

Faithfully yours,

(signed) LEON FRASER.

2 Enclosures.

L I S T "A"

Belgium
Great Britain & Northern Ireland
Canada
Australian Commonwealth
New Zealand
Union of South Africa
India
French Republic
The German Reich
Greek Republic
Italy
Japanese Empire
Republic of Poland
Republic of Portugal
Kingdom of Rumania
Czechoslovakian Republic
Kingdom of Yugoslavia
Switzerland
The Netherlands
Republic of Austria
Free City of Danzig
Principality of Luxemburg
Kingdom of Bulgaria

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L I S T "B"

Ecuador
Egypt
Hungary
Irish Free State
Lithuania
Turkey

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