PARIS ASKS FIRM STAND ON PEACE

Wants Guarantees Before Accepting Terms Offered by Germany

SEES TRICK ON ALSACE

French Express Confidence President Wilson Will Make Satisfactory Reply

By CHARLES H. GRASTY

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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Paris, Oct. 8.

Such French sentiment as was obtainable in Paris, while accepting the proposal of the Central Empires seriously in the sense that they are in distress and that the demarche is the beginning of the end, seems inclined to the impression that there is no room for negotiation and that the causes which have produced the weakening should be allowed to operate until the work is finished.

In certain other quarters, where recently I found approval of President Wilson's speech of September 27, the situation was viewed in a different sense. All are agreed on this main point that no negotiations shall be entered with Germany until she has accepted President Wilson's terms and given such guarantees as will make her acceptance binding.

No one is simple enough to take Germany on faith or to trust her mere word about anything. Before she can be treated with she must, in the opinion of Europe, be deprived of all means of profiting by deceit or treachery.

Nobody here has the least nervousness lest President Wilson should be imposed upon by German scheming. He understands Berlin as thoroughly as any statesman in the world.

Wilson Logical Leader

It would be a mistake to say that Europe accepts Wilson's leadership without some reserve, particularly since his speech on September 27, but it is recognized that his leadership is dictated by the logic of events and is inevitable. Naturally, as in the past, he will act with considerable regard of the Allied Governments, but his ideals and policy have been so consistent and have been so clearly stated as to leave little doubt regarding his aims.

It is reckoned in advance that there will be no premature negotiation with Berlin by Washington. There must be constitutional government for the Central Powers which shall contain in itself guarantees for the future. There must be a cutting out, root and branch, of the system under which war is matured, organized and launched by irresponsible authority for selfish purposes, and as a condition precedent, all that has been gained under this system and all injury that has been inflicted on others must be repaired as far as possible.

No other statesman goes further than the President in the demand for reform and reparation. There are undoubtedly variances of opinion, however, respecting the treatment of the German people after these conditions have been met and the share which each particular ally shall have in the fruits of victory.

"President Wilson alone is in a position to deal with the situation," said one commentator. "He alone is disinterested. This great European war has a background of controversy and enmity which would make a settlement extremely difficult without the strong hand of the President. Even he, with his ability and courage, might fall short of the goal but for the practical help given to the Allies by America and the presence on the Allied front of a great American army. This is a giant's power which every one knows America will use like a giant against Germany.

One Standard of Right

"It is not altogether the Allied military success but partly the stand taken by President Wilson which has at long last brought some sense of the realities to Germany. The Germans are beginning to learn that he has not one standard of right for them, and another for the rest of the world.

"If his policy were purely one of war to extinction, German militarists might rally the people to die in the last ditch. Wilson has deprived them of this argument while Foch continues to rain blows on them on the western front."

There is less disposition in Paris to treat the demarche as a German trick aimed at dividing Allied opinion, than on former occasions. It is believed that Germany is in trouble with herself and with her Allies and that a break-up has begun which nothing can stop.

If the conditions laid down by Prince Max in his Reichstag speech had been identical with the terms expressed by Austria in her request for an armistice, it would have made no difference in the attitude of the French people toward this latest peace maneuver. Attention is called to the fact that Austria does not ask peace on the conditions laid down by President Wilson, but asks for a discussion of peace with those conditions as a basis. That is a very different matter.

Alsace-Lorraine Differences

However, the Vienna proposal attracted a trifle more attention than the German Chancellor's speech. The latter utterance was for a common understanding as to "autonomy for Alsace-Lorraine." That phrase alone marks the absolute failure of the effort of the two Central Powers to play their different parts together in a convincing way. The eighth of President Wilson's point demands the restoration of Alsace-Lorraine to France. But Prince Max does not interpret Wilson in that way.

The whole spirit of the French people is that the only answer to Austria and Germany is the same answer which General d'Esperey gave Bulgaria when that country asked for a cessation of hostilities. In the meantime the French are more interested in the recent speech of Josephus Daniels, just published here, saying that to get the right kind of victory it will be necessary for the American troops to enter Berlin and march down Unter den Linden.

U. S. ADMIRAL DECLINES CROSS

Refuses Decoration in Accordance With Government Order

Paris, Sept. 30.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press).—Admiral Henry B. Wilson, commander-in-chief of the American naval forces in French waters refused the cross of the Legion of Honor when President Poincare and Minister of Marine George Leygues visited him at Brest. The press was invited not to record the incident.

The President, inviting Admiral Wilson to lunch, expressed his intention of decorating his guest with the Legion of Honor.

The American admiral replied that, although greatly flattered by the proposal, it was impossible for him to accept a decoration. He took his stand on his Government's order forbidding the acceptance of decorations except for acts of war. He declared that he could not consider his work at Brest as being at the front.

Kaiser Frequently in Tears, Suffering From Insomnia

Special Cable to the Evening Public Ledger
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Paris, Oct. 8.—Circumstantial reports received here from good Swiss sources assert that the German Emperor is now suffering from insomnia and frequent crises of tears.

From time to time he suggests abdication, and then relinquishes the idea on the ground that the Crown Prince would be even less acceptable to the Allies than himself.

GREAT ALLIANCE SUPPORTS MAX

Conservatives Only Party Now Opposing New Imperial Chancellor

PEACE SPEECH CHEERED

By GEORGE RENWICK

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co.

Amsterdam, Oct. 8.

The new Chancellor's speech was received in the Reichstag with every sign of approval by all parties in the House save the Conservatives, who remained sullen and cold, and the Minority Socialists, whose attitude was one of suspicion.

At the last moment, the National Liberals, after doubt, hesitation and fear, swung around into line, announcing their adherence to the Socialist majority program. That happening speaks volumes regarding the situation. Prince Max, therefore, can rely on the support of a great alliance, consisting of the Majority Socialists, the Progressives, the Center and the National Liberals.

The speech, in tone and contents, is reported to have gone even beyond the most democratic hopes, and it is an exceedingly interesting and noteworthy coincidence that the morning papers contain a report of and some comments on President Wilson's recent speech. The speech tended to heighten the interest in democratic circles and was eagerly discussed in the Reichstag lobbies, where it was generally regarded as an important re-enforcement in favor of the new Chancellor and his Government.

The Chancellor's utterance with regard to the communication made to the United States was loudly cheered by the new bloc.

Vorwaerts, which must now be regarded as one of the chief mouthpieces of the Government, attributes the greatest importance to Mr. Wilson's speech. It points out that he speaks as a statesman who feels himself at the height of military success, but "he does not speak of imposing hard peace terms on the enemy. If the way to which Wilson points is really open," the Socialist journal goes on, "then the German people under the new Government will not hesitate for a moment to take that path."

Indeed, it regards all of President Wilson's points as already accepted save two, which it looks on as presenting difficulties. The first is the Alsace-Lorraine problem, with reference to which it advocates the old Socialist policy of autonomy, which it declares "really means a big step toward meeting the demands of the other side." The second difficulty points to Poland.

As for everything else, Vorwaerts goes on, "Count Burian's note was merely a formal request for negotiations and laid down no basic principles. These principles are now outlined in President Wilson's speech, and there can be no doubt that they can be accepted in toto."

It thinks that the German policy will be successful in bringing about a peace—"not a German peace, not a peace by victory, not a hard peace, but on the basis of Wilson's program—a peace of international justice."

Even the conservative militarist organ, Die Post, finds President Wilson's five points "not so bad," and though the Vossiche Zeitung is critical of them it is not wholly displeased with them. The latter journal demands that the Brest-Litovsk and Bucharest treaties be "swept out of the world."

Of course, the Pan-Germans rage at the course which events have taken. The Kaiser's standard has been hauled down, laments the Berliner Neueste Nachrichten, a Krupp organ, "and the red flag of the Socialists has been run up. On October 2, came the virtual end of the power of Kaiserdom."

"A still and bloodless victory has swept away a great system in the night, but a new one is in its place," declares Die Post.

"By this domestic change in Germany," the Deutsche Tages Zeitung moans, "our enemies have won a bloodless victory in the very heart of the German empire."

Sees Dark Clouds Ahead

The military critic of the Tageliche Rundschau sees things through very dark spectacles. He says:

"Round us are dark stormclouds; in the west, the war luck has gone against us. In the east the Bulgars have left us. At home there has been swept away that system of government under which we became a world Power.

"Only from one side comes a ray of light. The U-boat war, though more slowly than before, goes on and continues our offensive at sea."

The trouble between Russia and Turkey, too, causes alarm. Vorwaerts says that it means that Russia is again at war with Turkey, and, therefore, with Germany, and that it signifies that the "first pillar of the Brest-Litovsk peace has fallen away," and it demands that the rest must go and go quickly.

Beside this news all else, such as the abdication of Czar Ferdinand takes a secondary place. That Balkan Kaiser is followed into oblivion by but few complimentary references from the German press, and some papers say that his fate will be a good warning to German princelets who would seek eastern crowns.

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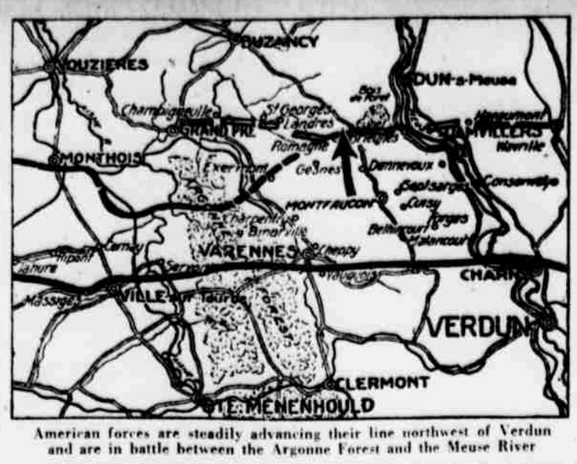

American forces are steadily advancing their line northwest of Verdun and are in battle between the Argonne Forest and the Meuse River

PLEA TO WILSON CALLED BLUNDER

Paris Says Armistice Is Purely Military Matter, Not Diplomatic

ALLIES MUST FIGHT ON

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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Paris, Oct. 8.

The German request for an armistice has been received here entirely without surprise, but with almost equal proportions of indignation and cynical amusement—indignation that the enemy should hold Allied intelligence so cheaply as to believe such a proposition could be acceptable at this juncture of all others, and amusement at the fact that the Germans should be so naive as to try such a clumsy trick.

"Why," said a disdainful French friend to me, "it's just as if the losing man in a boxing match when he has been got fairly on the ropes, should suddenly ask his opponent to shake hands and call it a draw. Germany knows the knockout is coming, and this stupid demand for an armistice wouldn't deceive a four-year-old child."

Following is a summary of French opinion:

"The difference between Austria's request for a peace discussion on the basis of President Wilson's fourteen points and Prince Max's three points, on which he says Germans can accept peace, is not to be interpreted as a difference in thought or spirit between Berlin and Vienna. The Central Powers are in full accord in the matter.

"Apparently the wide difference in their manner of presenting the matter to the Allies is merely a play of tactics. Germany is using Austria as her advance guard in the present maneuver.

"As regards both the Austrian and German suggestions, there is only one intention with a twofold purpose.

"First, there is a repetition of the old attempt to produce an impression of favorable peace negotiations among the Allied peoples; second, this latest move is only one more attempt to convince the German and Austrian publics that the Allies alone are responsible for a continuation of the war.

"It is the same method pursued by Bethmann-Hollweg and all his successors since 1916. It is more successful than ever now because of the Germans' final understanding that their only hope lies in a moment of weakness by the Allies in the face of a peace offensive.

"It is a fact full of significance that the new offers are timed for publication on the very day when the Socialist congress convenes in Paris. That is convincing evidence of the desire and hope of Germany to get a reaction among the extreme Socialists and pacifists of the Allied countries.

"But it is the general opinion in France that it is quite impossible to enter into the suggested negotiations. It would only serve to give Germany time to recoup her forces, restore material, evacuate trading points of the present line and strengthen her position, where she now sees inevitable defeat all along the line from the British, French, American and Belgian troops.

"On the contrary, a temporary cessation of hostilities would work just the other way, and would be to a great disadvantage. It would mean interruption of sending more American troops across the Atlantic, for one thing.

"Furthermore, a period of negotiation without cessation of the fighting would be a good thing for Germany with all the disadvantage on the side of our now victorious armies, for the precedents of all history prove that soldiers cannot fight best when they know that negotiations are in progress to end the fighting. It is a psychologically impossible thing to expect of soldiers. For these military reasons it is impossible for France now to consent to any pause in the war."

GERMANS PRINT WILSON'S SPEECH

Allow It to Be Understood as Basis for Peace Program

PRESIDENT REAL FACTOR

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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The Hague, Oct. 8.

Berlin papers on Saturday published President Wilson's speech of September 27 in full, or gave copious extracts, allowing it to be understood that this speech would be the basis for the Government peace program and for eventual negotiations with the enemy.

The German press previously had virtually ignored the speech, publishing only part of it, with a few lines of comment. The Vossische Zeitung points out that Wilson made his speech a week before, and asks why it was not published in full before. The Tageblatt explains, somewhat skeptically, that the speech was not published before owing to mistakes in text.

The Vossische Zeitung calls Wilson's speech the clearest program of aims which America has yet drawn up, and says that Wilson is more than ever the decisive factor in the Entente, and that the Chancellor's speech would doubtless be closely connected with it. The paper asserts that Wilson's reproaches against the German Government are directed against a government which no longer exists and insists that the recent changes are not merely changes of persons, but of the government, and that the President cannot now find any obstacles to a league of nations, since Prince Max has always had the same ideas as Colonel House and President Wilson in the matter of a world league. The paper adds that there is no doubt that President Wilson was the chief instigator of the Bulgarian peace and, with other newspapers, holds that the question of war or peace lies in his hands.

Papers representing the Right object to Wilson's speech, their attitude being chiefly one of distrust. The Deutsche Tages Zeitung publishes only the five points contained in Wilson's speech, adding, "It is Wilson, of whose peace conditions Scheidemann said that he himself might have written them."

The semi-official Cologne Gazette published Wilson's speech in full. The Cologne Volks Zeitung says that Wilson has now presented about twenty points and is certain that there are many on which England and America cannot agree, such as economic war after the War and economic boycotting.

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LONDON CONFIDENT WILSON WILL REFUSE ARMISTICE

Press Comment Shows British Are Unanimously Against Any but "Unconditional Surrender"—Court-Martial Demanded for Kaiser and Leaders Who Broke Law

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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London, Oct. 8.

The unanimous verdict of the American press on the Teuton proposals, as reflected in the editorials cabled here, that, in the New York Times' phrase, "there can be no peace with the Hohenzollerns," was a feature of the afternoon papers and is held to indicate clearly what will be the tenor of President Wilson's reply to Berlin.

Any idea that the proposal for an armistice would find favorable consideration for a moment in Washington is scouted. According to the Evening News, both Lloyd George and Clemenceau are of the opinion that the proposal to suspend military operations, which is regarded everywhere as impelled by military necessity, and a scheme by which Germany hoped to be able to extricate and regroup her armies, ought to have been addressed to Marshal Foch.

It was first thought in some quarters that the German and Austrian notes to the President might have the effect of necessitating a united reply by the Entente Allies, supplementary to the response which President Wilson would make. That idea has gone by the board. It is held that the unanimity of American opinion and the firm attitude of the President, which it foreshadows so unmistakably, mark the only outlines along which Germany can make any progress toward peace.

Germany and Austria, it is believed, will receive from the President so clear-cut a reply that the essentials of peace negotiation cannot be befogged by subsidiary questions, arising out of possible or problematical dissimilarities of view among the Allies. Such differences, it is held, can safely be left for settlement at the peace conference.

See Trickery in Appeal

While there is no disposition to anticipate President Wilson's reply to the request for an armistice, it is regarded here as certain that the President will not consent to the suspension of hostilities, which would be all to the advantage of the enemy. In many quarters the appeal for an armistice is held to mean not an approach to peace, but trickery.

The Daily Mail says editorially:

"If the German people are now sincere and wish to know what guarantees Wilson and the Allies require, it may be embodied in two words, 'Unconditional surrender.' The Germans must leave the territories they have occupied, with Alsace-Lorraine unredeemed, Italy, Serbia and Russia. They must restore the property they have stolen and pay for all the damage they have done, and they must further surrender for trial by the Allies the great criminals of the war. Among these we may name, as typical persons, William II, the author of the war and of the order to murder prisoners; General von Kluck, for the outrages committed by his First Prussian army; General von Buelow, for his general order of August 22, 1914, 'With my authorization the town of Andenne has been laid in ashes and 110 inhabitants have been shot'; General Stenger, for his order of August 26, 1914, to murder British wounded and prisoners; General von Boehm, for the Termonde murders; Major Manteuffel, for the burning of Louvain, and Captain von Forstner, for the murder of the Falaba passengers. These are a few names of some five hundred persons who have conspicuously violated the laws of war and The Hague conventions. To them should be added the German commanders of prison camps in which British victims have been done to death. Last of all, Lenine, Trotsky, and other anarchist criminals, whom the German Government turned loose upon Russia and supplied with money and arms, must not be forgotten where justice has to be done.

The Birmingham Post in an editorial says:

"Germany wants to haggle. She wants to get us into a conference chamber and drive the best bargain she can without, as a preliminary, committing herself to acceptance of anything, whether in principle or detail. We shall be surprised if President Wilson thinks it worth while to take up the question of bringing about peace with nothing more substantial than this to bring before his associates in the war. Neither he nor any leading statesman in the Allied countries can have the slightest hope of reaching a 'clean peace' by such methods. The war can only be ended in one way. In all essentials, there must be a dictated peace."

The Manchester Guardian says:

"Nothing in the Constitution of the German State has been altered. The Kaiser remains absolute and supreme. The vague declaration that henceforth 'men shall to a wide extent co-operate' in the work of the Government is simply an emanation of his soverign will which the Kaiser has given or has proposed to give, and which the Kaiser may take away. The transformation of the German machine of government can only be effectively carried out by the German people, and as we left the Bulgarians to deal as it may please them with their own monarch and his Government, so we must leave the German people to deal in their own time and their own way with theirs.

Must Acknowledge Defeat

"We see no reason why the conditions of an armistice with Germany and Austria should not be the same as those imposed upon Bulgaria, with this difference: That, whereas Bulgaria was called upon not only to withdraw her forces from all occupied territory, but also to demobilize and throw open her country to the passage of our troops, nothing more need be asked of Germany and Austria than that they should withdraw within their own territories. This would, of course, be an acknowledgment of defeat. There ought to be an acknowledgment of defeat, and without it our work will not have been done. It may be that in her present mood Germany would not accept such a condition. In that case we may have to wait till she is ready. Negotiation is useless unless an armistice is contemplated; but how can we bring our armies to a standstill with their work only half done, knowing that every day of such reprieve would strengthen the German military position and add fatally to the task before us if negotiation should fail?"

The Daily News editorial says:

"The main purpose of Prince Max's speech is to convince the world that he is speaking in the name of a new Germany. President Wilson has insisted that no peace can be made which rests on the word of the military rulers of Germany. They have shown themselves incapable of honorable understanding, and the first preliminary to negotiations is the existence of a Government which can speak in the name of the people and give the security of the nation to whatever settlement is reached.

"The world will await the reply of President Wilson with confidence in its wisdom. Whether that reply will represent the decision of the European Allies we do not know. We may assume that it will. It is unfortunate that this critical moment finds the Allies without an agreed and declared policy. We have long urged the necessity of a common policy, and within the last week or two that obvious requirement has been put forward in quarters hitherto hostile to a declaration of aims. The action of Germany makes immediate decision on the matter imperative. We can no longer dwell in the atmosphere of vague phrases. We must say whether President Wilson speaks for us or for himself alone. We cannot doubt what his decision will be. There is no policy before the world except that of the President, and there is no other policy that would be tolerated by the democracy of any Allied country. Its immediate indorsement is vital."

Would Break Enemy's Power

The Times says editorially:

"It is appropriate enough that the German peace offensive and request for an armistice coincide with the publication of the French Government's moving statement concerning the 'monstrous work of ravage and devastation' which the German armies at this moment are accomplishing in the territory from which they are being driven. That statement will have the support of all the Allies and will redouble their resolution that the punishment shall fit the crime.

"No doubt Prince Max of Baden is sincere in his desire for peace behind the 'unbroken front' of Germany's 'glorious armed power.' He discerns the approach of overwhelming defeat and appreciates its consequences. What he does not appreciate is the absolute and unalterable determination of the Allies to make an end of the menace to civilization whose ravages have been stayed at the cost of such appalling sacrifice.

"It is far too late in these days to talk of a 'basis for peace negotiations.' The Allied peoples scrutinize every fresh German proposal at least as closely as do their Governments. Their one determination is that the defeat of those who made this war shall be complete and absolute, that the task which they have undertaken shall be performed to the very end, and that there shall be no peace until Germany has surrendered without conditions to terms which will leave her not merely without the will, but without the power to break it."

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