

President's Reply to Germany

Department of State, Oct. 14, 1918.
The Secretary of State makes public the following:
From the Secretary of State to the Chief of Affairs of Switzerland, ad interim, in charge of German interests in the United States:
"Department of State, Oct. 14, 1918.
"Sir—In reply to the communication of the German Government, dated the 12th instant, which you handed me today, I have the honor to request you to transmit the following answer:
"The United States Government, and by large majority of the German Reichstag, of the terms laid down by the President of the United States in his address to the Congress of the United States on the 8th of January, 1918, and in his subsequent addresses, justifies the President's decision in his kind and direct statement of his decision with regard to the communications of the German Government of the 8th and 12th of October, 1918.
"It must be clearly understood that the President's decision and the conditions of an armistice are matters which must be left to the judgment and advice of the military advisers of the Governments of the United States and the Allied Governments, and the President feels it his duty to say that no arrangement can be accepted by the Government of the United States which does not provide absolutely satisfactory safeguards and guarantees of the maintenance of the present military supremacy of the Allies of the field. He feels confident that he can safely assume that this will also be the judgment and decision of the Allied Governments of the Allies.
"The President feels that it is also his duty to add that neither the Government of the United States nor, he is quite sure, the Governments with which it is allied, are prepared to consider an armistice so long as the armed forces of Germany continue to employ the inhumane practices which they still permit.
"At the very time that the German Government approached the Government of the United States with proposals of peace its submarines are engaged in sinking passenger ships at sea, and not the ships alone, but the very boats in which their passengers and crews seek to make their way to safety; and in their present enforced withdrawal from Flanders and France the German armies are pursuing a course of wanton destruction, which has always been regarded as in direct violation of the rules and practices of civilized warfare. Cities and villages, if not destroyed, are being stripped of all they contain not only, but often of their very inhabitants. The nations associated against Germany are not asked to agree to a cessation of arms while acts of inhumanity, spoliation and desolation are being continued, which they justify long with horror and with burning indignation.
"It is necessary also, in order that there may be no possibility of misunderstanding, that the President should very solemnly call the attention of the Government of Germany to the language and plain intent of one of the terms of peace which the German Government has now accepted. It is contained in the address of the President delivered at Mount Vernon on the Fourth of July last. It is as follows:
"The destruction of every arbitrary power anywhere that can separately, secretly and of its single choice disturb the peace of the world; or, if it cannot be presently destroyed, at least its reduction to virtual impotency."
The power which has hitherto controlled the German nation is of the sort here described. It is within the power of the German nation to alter it. The President's words just quoted naturally constitute a condition precedent to peace, if peace is to come by the action of the German people themselves. The President is bound to say that the whole process of peace will, in his judgment, depend upon the definiteness and the satisfactory character of the guarantees which can be given in that fundamental matter. It is indispensable that the Governments associated against Germany should know beyond a peradventure what they are dealing with.
"The President will make a separate reply to the Royal and Imperial Government of Austria-Hungary.
"Accept, sir, the renewed assurances of my high consideration."
"ROBERT LANSING."
"Mr. Frederick Oederlin, Charge d'Affaires of Switzerland, ad interim, in charge of German interests in the United States."

PRESS LAUDS WILSON'S ANSWER TO GERMANY

Nothing Could Be More Adequate, Is United Opinion.
Newspapers Stand Solidly Behind President's Demand for Abdication of Hohenzollerns

Leading American newspapers unanimously and heartily endorse the President's reply to Germany. Comment is as follows:
Philadelphia Public Ledger
Nothing could be clearer, nothing could meet the exigencies of the case more completely than the reply of the President to the second German note. In what follows the object is not to enter into a discussion was "only to agree upon practical details." If the purpose of this was to win by negotiation what Germany had lost by arms, it is not only a failure, but a complete and utter failure. The President's reminder of the nature of the bargain, "It is necessary also," he says, "in order that there may be no misunderstanding, that the President should very solemnly call the attention of the Government of Germany to the language and plain intent of one of the terms of peace which the German Government has now accepted." In other words, he asks that Government if it knows what it is doing and if it intends to stand by its agreement. The question is no longer what it will accept, but what it has accepted.
Philadelphia Press
There will be no armistice, not now. There has been a new light. There is something more to be considered than the fourteen peace points that the German Government so quickly accepted.
Again the President enlarges on the untrustworthiness of the German Government and the impossibility of dealing with the German nation until they alter their government. This insistence looks like slamming the door on the peace overtures of Germany and putting an end to them for the present.
Philadelphia Inquirer
It is an answer that will send a chill down the spines of every member of the Hohenzollern family.
It is an answer that will send the good red blood of Americanism coursing through the veins of every patriotic citizen of the United States.
It is an answer that will be received in France, England, Italy and wherever men are fighting the Hun, with enthusiasm.
For that answer means the downfall of Kaiserism.
Splendidly has the President risen to the occasion. He laid a trap for the Hun. They have unsuspectingly entered it. The jaws have been sprung, and the Kaiser and his mad military police are caught fast in the teeth. Kaiserism must be annihilated, else there will be no peace. That is the meaning of the answer.
New York Sun
They who have seemed to see in his (the President's) correspondence with the armistice the spirit of democracy and civilization a yawning gulf from the straight line of action so frequently and so ably defined by him in previous utterances, or a disposition to substitute delicacies for force without stint, will be greatly reassured this morning. They will recognize in this final rejection of the German tentative the same spirit that now animates the United American people. They will perceive that the document signed by Robert Lansing aims at nothing short of the complete victory for which this nation, like France and Great Britain and Italy and Belgium and all the rest, is contending with a single purpose and with sacrifices unparalleled.
New York Times
The President's answer to Germany will stir the blood of the American people and secure their instant assent by acclamation. To its requests for an armistice and a discussion of the terms of peace he replies with an unparing and unflinching demonstration addressed to a brutal Government. No peace will be concluded with Germany until she has made an end of the Hohenzollern autocratic rule; conditions of evacuation and armistice must be left to the judgment and advice of Foch and Haig and Pershing and Diaz; and no armistice will be considered so long as the armed forces of Germany on land and sea, "continue the illegal and inhuman practices which they per-

FOCH'S ARMISTICE GUARANTEE



If Germany is to get an armistice a guarantee of good faith will be demanded by Marshal Foch, according to a cable dispatch. The Marshal is expected to insist upon the occupation by the Allies of Metz, Strasbourg and Coblenz, giving the Allies control of two great Rhine bridge-heads and the Briey-Longwy iron and coal district. Coblenz and Strasbourg are close to the heart of industrial Germany.

AUTOCRACY'S END NOW IN SIGHT IS VIEW IN NATIONAL CAPITAL

Turkey and that the note to Germany will be permitted to sink in before Austria or Turkey hears from us. The German diplomacy is to hold Austria true to the central alliance. The American diplomacy is to separate Austria from it if Germany by her recalcitrance forces us to do so. With regard to Austria the cards all seem to be in Mr. Wilson's hands. Austria must have peace. Official information is that her internal political and economic situation is growing daily worse.
is being pounded to death in the field, they declared, and the only thing Germany can hope to save from the wreckage is to prevent the war being carried across her border. And that can be accomplished only at the price of putting herself as utterly at the mercy of the victors as did Bulgaria.
Military opinion appeared to be in full agreement that in enunciating the policy that absolute safeguards and guarantees of the "present military supremacy" of American and Allied forces must control any armistice agreement, President Wilson had placed it beyond the power of Germany to reap any benefit from an insincere move toward peace.
President Clears Atmosphere
The President's reply, ending talk of an armistice until the Germans are ready to surrender and finally closing the door to peace negotiations with Kaiserism, was on the cables today. It actually had not arrived at Berlin. Only a few hours should be required for its delivery at Berlin through the Swiss Foreign Office.
Everywhere the feeling is apparent that the atmosphere is clearer than before Prince Maximilian came forward with his peace drive; that the purposes of the United States and the Allies are more than ever clearly stated, and that powers in Berlin and the German people now must see the futility of further attempts to avert the defeat in sight by compromise.

CANNOT MAKE PEACE WITH KAISERISM

By the Associated Press
Washington, Oct. 15.
Unconditional surrender by Germany was the interpretation put on President Wilson's answer to the German plea for peace by both American and Allied military officials here. Only by absolute surrender, they said, can the enemy now prevent the terminating evidence of his defeat—invasion of Germany.
No peace with Kaiserism; autocracy must go; no armistice can even be thought of while Germany continues her atrocities on land and sea; none can be considered unless it fully is dictated by the Allied commanders in the field in such terms as absolutely provide safeguards and guarantees that Germany's heart will not be a "serap of paper."
This, in a few words, is the President's answer.
Beyond question it speaks for the Entente Allies as well as the United States. The dispatch of the President's reply was followed by the issue of this formal statement at the White House by Secretary Tumulty:
The Government will continue to send over 250,000 men with their supplies every month and there will be no relaxation of any kind.
Will Be Forced to Accept
There is no doubt among officers that sooner or later the enemy will be compelled to accept these uncompromising terms. The German army

GERMAN PAPERS "PAINED" BY NOTE OF SURRENDER

Some Editors Merely Lament, Others Urge Plans to Restore What War Has Destroyed in Co-operation With World

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger (Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co.)
The Hague, Oct. 15.
The Berlin papers comment at length on the German answer to President Wilson. A majority of the papers naturally support the Government and approve the note. The Conservatives and part of the National Liberals, however, consider the note as Germany's complete surrender.
Vorwarts says that the answer was what could have been expected. The paper asserts that it is more than probable that further military decisions will not come into consideration since the people have assembled around the conference table, and that a conference which assemblies to make war is impossible forever between civilized peoples. Vorwarts alleges that the answer signed by Doctor Hoff is an answer from the German people, and that under Hoff's signature millions of signatures of men and women could be added who want to end the war.
The Tagblatt calls attention to the fact that the answer was approved by all the State secretaries, by the Reichscommand and the federal council, and also by a large majority of the Reichstag. Never before, it says, was a policy in Germany carried out with such co-operation.
Bernhard for Strong Policy
George Bernhard, in the Vossische Zeitung, remarks that many factors are responsible for the answer, and that it is the logical consequence of the first step, which must have been foreseen by those responsible.
He hopes that the Government will now show what has been lacking since the commencement of the war—a strong policy—and says that, with an international league of states, every enemy state will have the same interest as Germany herself, if possible, in the building up of the German Empire, otherwise the Wilson assurances for a lasting peace would have no meaning. Bernhard concludes that it is the duty of the German people at present to stop and look closely into the prospects which open up with Wilson's ideas of peace negotiations, as the people now stand at the turning point of their fate.
The form of agreement for attaining an armistice, Bernhard continues, is one to fill all Germans with deep sorrow. It is now, however, the duty of every one, he says, not to give way to this sorrow, but to gather strength from it in order to prepare for the restoration of everything which the war has destroyed, and all must work together in building up. The German people must see that

German Newspaper Bars Unconditional Surrender
By the Associated Press
Amsterdam, Oct. 15.—The Cologne Gazette, referring to the suggested evacuation of German occupied territories, gives testimony as to what such action means to Germany. The newspaper says:
"What are Siegfried positions and towns and villages? The main thing is that the German front maintain continuity. Even though, confiding in President Wilson's love of peace, we consent to the evacuation of occupied regions, then our battle-prepared army, our intact fleet and our strong nation at home guarantee that the German people cannot be forced into unconditional surrender."
The paper contends that this is to avoid the possibility of poor Belgium being fought over for a second time.

More Otranto Victims Die
Five U. S. Soldiers Succumb to Pneumonia
Belmont, Oct. 15.—Five more American soldiers, Y. G. McMahon, M. J. Cavasacine, J. Clifton, E. Knowlton and J. Marshall, all artillerymen, have died from pneumonia contracted at the time the transport Otranto was wrecked. They were buried yesterday.

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Five Bombs Destroy City After Its Occupation
With the Canadian Forces in the Field, 15.—Engineers, aided by battalions of infantry and by the dropping of the wind, have succeeded, after desperate efforts, in checking the Cambrai, but the heart of the city had been blown out and also the suburbs on the west side.
A detailed investigation has established beyond question that Cambrai has been destroyed deliberately. No sooner was the civilian population evacuated to the suburbs than the houses were given over to sack by the soldiers. Outwardly the streets and houses bear a respectable appearance; within all is litter and ruin. The fuel for the blast led to useless destruction.
A large article of intrinsic value that could not be carried away remains. Particularly prominent was the destruction of musical and religious offices. When the music was blown away, the complete possession of the town was virtually intact. A little more would have set off incendiary bombs that the Marwitz is declared to have used for the destruction of the town.

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