

TAFT SAYS SECRET PACT CAUSED CRISIS

Provisions of Treaty of London, if Granted, Would Plant Discord in Jugo-Slavia

RIGHT TO IGNORE COVENANT

By WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

The peace treaty with Austria-Hungary is being held by the controversy over the disposition of the part of Fiume, near the head of the Adriatic. When the war broke out in 1914 the Entente Allies and Germany would Italy intensively to induce her to join their respective sides. The obligations of the Triple Alliance had not been made public, but it was understood that Italy was bound to lend her aid to Austria and Germany in case of a war in which they were on the defensive. Italy positively insisted that this was not such a war, and so maintained her neutrality for a time. Then she was induced by promises of the Entente Allies, Great Britain, France and Russia, to declare war on Austria and subsequently against Germany. Her course was criticized as one wholly influenced by greed of territory.

"Consummation of Bidding"

The treaty by which she became an ally of France and Great Britain was secret, but enough was known to enable Italy's critics to aver that it was the consummation of a successful bid, the result of these attacks by Italy's defenders and these attacks by Italy's critics. It was not until the showing that she was entitled under the treaty to be considered before Austria attacked Serbia and by revealing the bad faith of Germany and Austria in Italy's war with Turkey and their secret aid to the sultan. This aroused sympathy with Italy, and it was assumed that the latest cry of the French terrorists for a restoration of the frontiers of France had been satisfied by an agreement that Trentino and Trieste should become hers.

It now appears that Fiume and the Dalmatian coast were also included in what was promised Italy. Italians perhaps formed a majority of the inhabitants of Fiume, but it is and has been for years a Croatian city. It is and has been always the part by which the solidly Slav population in the country behind the city reach the sea.

Too Much Self-Determination

Italy seeks to push the principle of self-determination too far. The unit of negotiation on which the majority is to determine the nation's control should include the port and the back country with which the port is united and which has also served the ample port of Trieste, with which Fiume exports its goods. Unless some explanation is made, Italy's insistence will tend to revive the charge that greed was her chief motive in this war. Italy relies on the secret treaty with the Entente Allies. But the United States was not a party to the treaty. Our entrance into the war was recommended by a declaration in favor of only just restitution of territory and upon the assumption, often stated, that it was not a war of conquest by the Allies. The terms of the armistice followed these lines. We have a right, therefore, to insist that the treaty which we have to sign and to help enforce should not be affected by a treaty to which we were not a party, which is inconsistent with our purpose in the war and which will not make for permanent peace.

Allies' Treaty Waived Rights

Secret treaty provisions in favor of England and France are understood to have been waived by those countries in view of these circumstances. If they are correctly stated, the public opinion of the United States and the disinterested world will sustain the President in resisting Italy's determination to take over Fiume and close Croatian access to the sea. The question is in Italian politics. Italy has taken possession of Fiume with the strong hand of conqueror against the Croats. Orlando may lose power in the Italian Parliament if he fails to stand by the Italian claim. Sonnino, his colleague at the conference and his associate as premier, is rigid and uncompromising. He would probably resist Orlando if the latter yielded. The situation is therefore acute. But can Italy afford to break on such an issue with the conference? One would think not. The President would seem to be clearly right in maintaining that at least Fiume be made a free port for Croatia and Danzig to be for Poland. If Italy's wish were to prevail, the settlement, with palpable injustice in it, would create a sense of wrong among the Jugo-Slavs that would return to plague Italy when most inconvenient.

Polish Seek Heaven's Aid for Danzig

Washington, April 25.—By A. P. P.—Poles in the United States will next Sunday unite in prayer and resolution for the inclusion of the ancient Polish seaport of Danzig within the new Polish state. John P. Sniawski, president of the National Polish Department, announced today. The plan will be carried out through the branches of the Polish National Alliance, the Polish Labor bodies and fraternal organizations.

EUROPE TO RETURN TO WAR BREAD BASIS

Food Council's Program Won't Prevent Americans From Eating White Bread

Paris, April 25.—(By A. P.) A decrease in the milling percentage, which will virtually put the world back to a war bread basis for the next three months, is part of the program adopted by the Supreme Food Council, under the chairmanship of Herbert C. Hoover. The program also includes a complete plan for securing and distributing food to allied, liberated, neutral and enemy countries until the next harvest. One object of the program is to determine the available food supply and so to distribute shipping as not to put undue pressure on any one market.

New York, April 25.—(By A. P.)

Americans will continue to eat white bread despite the return of European countries to a war bread basis, announced by the supreme food council. Julius H. Barnes, president of the Food Administration Grain Corporation and federal wheat director, said today. A survey of wheat stocks, Mr. Barnes said, had convinced his department that the American supply was sufficient not only to maintain continued production of all-wheat flour, but to meet the export demand until the next harvest. Reversion in Europe to the war bread basis, Mr. Barnes asserted, might help to impress upon Americans the alarming food shortage in the war-torn and neighboring lands. During the war, he added, English millers extracted 86 per cent of the wheat berry. When the armistice was signed more than was thrown out in the process, reducing the extraction percentage to 71. It now has been restored, he said, to 75 per cent and the corporation's advisers were to the effect that a similar standard was to be adopted for other belligerents and liberated countries, while neutrals sharing in the international food distribution would be required to take similar action. The 75 per cent basis, the wheat director stated, was approximately that of the American "selectory flour," milled during the greater part of the war.

U. S. RECOGNIZES BRITISH IN EGYPT

Wilson, However, Expresses Sympathy With Aspirations for Self-Government

London, April 25.—(By A. P.)

Violence in the promotion of the nationalist movement in Egypt is denounced by President Wilson and the United States in a note recognizing the British protectorate there, which was communicated to General E. H. H. Allenby, special high commissioner for Egypt and the Sudan, by the United States council general at Cairo. The text of the note follows: "I have the honor to state that I have been directed by government to acquaint you with the fact that the President of the United States recognizes the British protectorate over Egypt which was proclaimed by the Egyptian government on December 18, 1914. In recognizing this recognition the President must of necessity reserve for further discussion details thereof along with the question of the modification of any rights which may be attached in this decision. "In this connection I desire to say that the President and the American people have every sympathy with the legitimate aspirations of the Egyptian people for a further measure of self-government, but they view with regret any effort to obtain a realization of these aspirations by a resort to violence."

ORLANDO RISPONDE AL PRESID. WILSON

Egli Dichiara che le Aspirazioni Italiane Sono Basate sul Diritto e Sulla Giustizia

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Parigi, 25 aprile.—Il Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri l'Italia, On. Orlando, ha oggi una risposta alle "dichiarazioni" del Presidente Wilson, relativamente alle aspirazioni Italiane, con un comunicato di cinque pagine nel quale caratterizza l'attitudine del

presidente come una innovazione negli affari internazionali. Riferendosi al fatto di rivolgersi alle nazioni senza tener conto del Governo che le rappresenta, l'On. Orlando dice di essere profondamente dolente di ricordare che un tale procedimento fu applicato verso i governi nemici e deplora che oggi voglia applicarsi per un governo che è stato ed intende di rimanere un leale alleato della grande Repubblica d'America. Uno stesso metodo fu applicato per la Germania prima che venisse ratificato l'armistizio, quando cioè di si disse al popolo tedesco che non vi potevano essere negoziati con i loro governanti.

I contro-argomenti dell'On. Orlando relativamente alla questione di Fiume propongono che l'Italia reclami questa città in base ai quattordici punti del Presidente Wilson. "Dichiara che le aspirazioni Italiane furono sempre basate sulla ragione e sulla giustizia, e che è spiacente di non aver potuto convincere Mr. Wilson di ciò" ed ammette per la verità che la giustizia non è il monopolio di qualsiasi uomo e che tutti gli uomini possono errare. Il comunicato dell'On. Orlando

contiene aspri rimproveri contro l'attitudine del Presidente Wilson e denuncia l'applicazione di una diplomazia aperta per l'Italia, mentre in diplomazia segreta è applicata per altre nazioni. L'aspirazione riguarda la Dalmazia non può qualificarsi eccessiva, se si pensi che essa rappresenta il baluardo d'Italia attraverso secoli, ove il genio dei romani e dei veneziani la fecero nobile e grande, ha mantenuto le caratteristiche italiane anche durante la secolare ed implacabile persecuzione, mantenendo pure saldi i sentimenti di patriottismo con il popolo italiano.

La replica dell'On. Orlando così termina: "Il messaggio del Presidente Wilson termina con una calda dichiarazione di amicizia dell'America verso l'Italia. Io replico in nome del popolo italiano, ed altamente reclamatione ed il diritto di far ciò, nella più tragica ora di questa guerra, proclamando il grido di resistenza ad ogni costo. Questo grido è ascoltato e ripreso con coraggio ed abnegazione, come in nobili esempi nella storia del mondo. "L'Italia, grazie ai più eroici sa-

crifici ed alla purezza del sangue dei suoi figli, fu capace di accendere dallo sfortunato abisso alle radianti cime della più gloriosa vittoria. In nome d'Italia, quindi, io esprimo con tutta la mia forza i sentimenti di ammirazione e di profonda simpatia che il popolo italiano professa verso il popolo americano."

Roma, 25 aprile.—Centinaia di migliaia di persone partecipano oggi a dimostrazioni anti-Wilson in tutte le città d'Italia. La folla plaudisce all'America, ma denuncia il Presidente Wilson, anche in Torino, Milano, Genova e Bologna al verificarsi imponenti dimostrazioni al grido di: "Viva l'America, abbasso Wilson." Una dimostrazione in Roma, passando innanzi all'Ambasciata Americana, nel

momento che usciva l'Ambasciatore d'America, alle quali l'Ambasciatore rispose gridando: "Viva l'Italia."

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Fashioned Silk Hosiery, with cotton tops and soles. White, Cordeux, Taupe, Black. \$1.75 a pair.
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