

FRANCE AGREES TO SHIP NEGOTIATIONS

Disposed to Co-operate With U. S., but Maintains Demand for Defense Craft

BRIAND CABLES JUSSERAND

Suggest New Conference to Deal With Submarines

Washington, Dec. 23.—(By A. P.)—Suggestion has been made by the Italian naval delegation to the Naval Committee of the Conference that another international gathering of broader scope be called soon after the adjournment of the present discussions to deal particularly with submarines and auxiliary craft.

By the Associated Press Paris, Dec. 23.—Premier Briand has sent Ambassador Jusserand in Washington a final and definite acceptance of the capital ship ratio. France, however, it is stated, maintains her position regarding submarines and coast defense ships, although she is willing to negotiate.

Washington, Dec. 23.—(By A. P.)—Failure of the French delegation to receive expected additional instructions as to auxiliary naval craft from its home Government, promised to lead to further discussion today of the submarine question by the Washington Conference in the single meeting likely to break a pre-Christmas lull.

Under a tentative understanding the submarine discussions, opened yesterday with a new French proposal, the Italian delegation for abolition of submarines, automatically will be resumed by the full Naval Committee this afternoon in view of anticipated progress, but that they have nothing to present.

A suggestion came from the Italian representation that another conference be arranged soon after the adjournment of the present gathering to take up further the question of auxiliary naval craft. The Italians made the point that a number of nations having submarines either built or planned, were not represented at the present Conference, and unless brought into agreement with the spirit of the present gathering, might, at comparatively small outlay, construct sufficient submarine tonnage to menace the feeling of security of the Powers here represented.

It was conceivable, the Italian spokesman said, that one of the smaller Mediterranean Powers, for instance, might, at the comparatively low cost of \$50,000,000, provide itself with 50,000 tons of submarine tonnage. This number, he said, far exceeded the allowance proposed to be given to Italy under the American plan, and might place the outside Powers in a position to dominate the Mediterranean.

The Italian suggestion will be brought up for consideration before adjournment, it was said. The Italian attitude toward the use of submarines was described as unchanged by the elaborate argument made against that type of craft yesterday by Lord Lee, of the British delegation. Italy still maintains her position of submarine tonnage and, moreover, does not wish to be prohibited from building some large submarines if she wishes to do so, her spokesman said.

JAPANESE PREMIER LAUDS PACIFIC PACT

Paris, Dec. 23.—(By A. P.)—Premier Baron Takahashi, of Japan, is quoted by the Tokyo correspondent of the newspaper Excelsior as declaring: "The quadruple Entente, which for Japan replaces the Anglo-Japanese alliance, is much wiser in bearing, and removes all chances of war. I venture to say," he continued, "that the Washington Conference has opened a new epoch in the Pacific and the world. I not only believe that the Entente will result in making the Japanese people happier, because it will lighten their burdens, but further that, by reason of the guarantee we obtain, the position of Japan is strengthened in the Far East."

LORD LEE BELITTLES SUBMARINE IN WAR

Washington, Dec. 23.—An hour-long communication by the Admiralty Committee of the Washington Conference yesterday's meeting was in the form of a paraphrase of the statement made for the delegation of each Power with respect to the British proposal

that submarines be abolished as a naval weapon. The argument of Lord Lee, it stated, the view of the British Government to be "that what was required was not merely restrictions on submarines, but their total and final abolition."

Lord Lee presented the following estimates of existing submarine tonnage: United States, 85,500; Great Britain, 80,500; Japan, 32,000; France, 28,300; and Italy, 18,250.

He pointed out that under the American plan of 50,000 tons each for Great Britain and the United States and 54,000 for Japan, the United States could build 65,000 tons, Great Britain 52,000 and Japan 21,800, with the other two countries in proportion.

Cites Many Objections "If I felt bound to say," the paraphrase continued, "that it seemed to him very strange to put before a Conference on the Limitation of Naval Armament proposals designed to foster and increase the type of war vessels, which, according to the British view, was open to more objection than surface capital ships."

Lord Lee said friends of the submarine contended that it was a legitimate weapon of weaker Powers and as effective and economical means of defense for coast lines and maritime commerce. He pointed out that the submarine had proceeded much further than the developments of submarines themselves and greatly increased the value of the submarine as a modern war-weapon. He said he believed Germany had used 375 U-boats in the war, of which 277 had been sunk, and that the loss of the submarine had been "almost insignificant."

Troops Safely Transferred "No fewer than 15,000,000 British troops had crossed and recrossed the English Channel during the war, and no one man had been lost from the action of submarines except on board hospital ships," the paraphrase declared. Later "some 2,000,000 United States troops had been brought across the Atlantic and the submarine had proved equally powerless" in their case.

In fact, the paraphrase continued in presenting Lord Lee's argument, "the U-boat, whether considered as an offensive or a defensive weapon, is not a part of organized naval force, but a mere means of transport."

Talking up the argument as to cost, Lord Lee pointed out that Great Britain alone had almost as much cost to defend as all of the other Powers at the Conference combined. In addition, he added, Great Britain had the longest trade route to protect.

"It was partly because our experience has shown that they were not effective that we were ready to abandon submarines," Lord Lee said. The late war had made it abundantly clear that the greatest peril to maritime commerce was the submarine, and that peril was especially great to a country which did not possess command of the sea on the surface. Hence, it was

to the interest of any such Power to get rid of this terrible menace. Lord Lee asserted that submarines had "achieved real success" against merchant ships only, and made no mention of the German submarine campaign which had accomplished against merchant vessels in the war.

No less than 12,600,000 tons of shipping had been sunk, of a value of \$1,100,000,000, apart from their cargo. More than 20,000 non-combatants—men, women and children—had been drowned. It is true that action had been undertaken in violation of all laws, but he was not impressed with the argument that submarines could not be dealt with, because "it was found impossible to deal effectively with poison gas or air bombs which were by-products of essential industries."

The speaker continued that submarines constituted the only class of vessel which the Conference was asked to give "permission to thrive and multiply."

Britain Strong in Submarines "To show the earnestness of the British Government in this matter," Lord Lee pointed out, "the paraphrase continued, that Great Britain possessed the largest and probably the most efficient submarine navy in the world, composed of 100 vessels of 80,000 tons."

He was prepared to scrap the whole of this great fleet and to disband the personnel provided that other Powers would do the same. That was the British offer to the world and he believed that it was a greater contribution to the cause of humanity than the limitation of capital ships.

In closing Lord Lee said it was not the invention of the British delegation that the settlement as to capital ships should be affected if they failed to carry their point in regard to the abolition of submarines. The British would welcome, however, he said, any suggestions for restrictions or reduction of submarines and awaited with interest the proposals of the French delegates.

Experts Differ on Figures Secretary Hughes, as chairman, intervened to say that figures of American naval experts as to existing submarine tonnage differed from those presented by Lord Lee. The American figures were he said, United States, 95,000 tons; Great Britain, 82,404; France, 42,850; Japan, 31,400, and Italy, 20,228.

"The United States has, therefore," the Communiqué continued, in quoting Mr. Hughes, "85,000 tons, which it is prepared to reduce. The reduction is slight, but it is a reduction. It is, of course, not the intention to increase, but to reduce."

For the French delegation, M. Sarment stated his "profound disapproval of the barbarous use which was made of submarines in the late war." He recalled that a submarine question had been dealt with at the Peace Conference and by the League of Nations, and that public opinion had shown itself favorable to the continuance of submarines.

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raut asserted the belief "that the submarine was pre-eminently a defensive weapon, especially for nations scantily supplied with capital ships." He argued that "the submarine had proved itself to be unequal to gaining control of the sea, and could not be considered as a dominating weapon."

Would Formulate Rules "It was also undeniable, he contended, that the submarine "should be used under honorable conditions," and said it was certain these conditions would be formulated in conformity with the lessons of the late war.

The number of submarines a nation needed depended upon "the needs of national defense," M. Sarment said, and submarines of large size were more in accordance with "the laws of humanity, which demand that even the torpedoes should be rescinded," than small submarines. Large cruising radius was needed, he said, to protect distant colonies and maintain lines of communication.

For the Italian delegation, Senator Schanzer said the Italian naval experts did not share Lord Lee's opinion "that submarines are not efficient means of defense."

"They think that the submarine is still an indispensable weapon for the defense of the Italian coast," he said. "Our naval experts are furthermore of the opinion that submarines are necessary to protect the lines of communication of our country."

Outside Powers Concerned "We are not ready today to resolve these doubts of a technical character. We venture to observe, moreover, that

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we do not think this Conference, in which only five Powers are represented, could resolve the question of submarines, which can concern many other Powers which are not represented here."

Senator Schanzer said the Italian delegation was not ready to "associate ourselves with a proposal of abolishing submarines, and we are not authorized to do so."

For Japan, Mr. Hanthara said he was "unconditionally opposed to all abuses of submarines, such as those recently committed by a certain nation," but felt that a legitimate use of submarines was justifiable and necessary for defense. He suggested that international rules of war be modified to guard against abusive use of submarines.

Chairman Hughes said none could fail to be deeply impressed by the statement of Lord Lee, and that it was clear all were agreed "there was no disposition to tolerate on any plan of necessity the illegal use of the submarine as practiced in the late war."

Mr. Hughes said he understood that "the crux of the controversy is as to the use of the submarine as a weapon of offense. Lord Lee had said it was of little value, and had pointed out that only five nations were present at the Washington Conference, he said, adding that he could not agree that those nations were in the same position regarding submarines as regarding capital ships, since they "represented the po-

teny of competition" in capital ships, while other nations could produce submarines "in more cheaply made weapons" if they chose.

Even if the Conference were ready to adopt the principle of abolition of the submarine, Mr. Hughes said, they would still have to await adherence of other nations.

Mr. Hughes said he was not ready to announce the position of the United States further than "to add to the expressions of detestation of the abuse of submarines and of the methods—the illegal methods, as they have been continually called—of their employment during the war."

Reads Advisers' Report "He then read the report on submarines unanimously adopted by the American advisory committee of men and women selected "from all fields of activity, from all parts of the country and representing every shade of public opinion," saying, however, that he did so "not as the opinion of the American Government," but as the report of the committee.

The concluding paragraph of the Advisory Committee report said: "The committee is, therefore, of the opinion that unlimited warfare by submarines on commerce should be outlawed. The right of visit and search must be exercised by submarines under the same rules as for surface vessels. It does not approve limitation in size of submarines."

It was pointed out that war on commerce by surface craft caused damage of ownership of merchant vessels and not loss of merchant tonnage to the world, the object of war being to deprive the enemy of the use of sea vessels.

The Advisory Committee report on the said about unlimited warfare by submarines is also true of unlimited warfare by surface craft, provided the combatant vessels do not violate the rules of war. It pointed to operations of Confederate raiders in destroying property, but not lives, in the war between the States and of the German Moser, a surface ship, in the late war, and added: "So that unlimited warfare is not necessarily an attribute of the submarine alone."

Visit and Search Difficult The report pointed out the difficulties of visit and search for submarines because of limited personnel, but said this also applied to small surface craft. It added that vulnerability of the submarine and the "probability of its sinking the vessels it captured" were "not factors in operations of neutral ships, including neutrals, to arm."

"Such action greatly hampers the activity of submarines and tends to ward illegal acts both by the merchant vessels and by the submarine," the report said.

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Seen in the Christmas

You should stop in Hallowells' and see their wonderful display of Gift Baskets of Fruit. It is truly an amazing spectacle. And I wish that I might send one to each of my readers for Christmas.

Delora Seaman MERRY CHRISTMAS! Have you ever noticed how some gifts convey all the joy and warmth of the Yuletide? A Gift Basket of Fruit from Hallowells' (Broad below Chestnut) will carry a real Christmas Greeting. They are simply perfect; they are highly flavored and gorgeous in coloring. And it is so artistically arranged, the rich, dark color of the Hothouse Grapes from Belgium making a delightful contrast with the brilliant, rosy Lady Apples and white Almorás oranges from Spain.

YOU are surely going to have your Christmas Tree illuminated this year, aren't you? Bewitching little red, blue, green and yellow lights shining out like fairies—there is no other tree decoration which can compare with them and I am sure the children will agree with me. You can still purchase them at the electrical store of Walker & Kepler, 531 Chestnut Street, as well as those fascinating electrical toys. But have not availed yourself of the opportunity which this store offers to obtain a really exquisite electric lamp at a very moderate price? The Japanese Vase Lamps with large silk shades charmingly made in delicate colors and with heavy fringe I have found to be unsurpassed anywhere. While their bridge lamps are of unusual variety.

NEVER have I enjoyed Christmas shopping so much as this year. Every one has caught the true Christmas spirit and the stores seem to have had an inexhaustible supply of lovely gifts. However, I think that it is often the gifts of importance which one delays purchasing until the last minute—a gift to which one wishes to give careful consideration. At the store of Bailey, Banks & Biddle Company you will find the most exquisite jewelry—pieces beautiful in design and set with that most brilliant of all gems, the Polish Girde Diamond, emeralds, rubies, sapphires, brooches, rings, large bracelets, brooches, etc. And, too, Bailey's superb collection of Pearl necklaces are of rare beauty. But they also have many gifts of moderate price which will be greatly appreciated.

IF YOU have been undecided as to what gift with which a man will be the most pleased I should suggest some article of wearing apparel; but be sure to purchase it from a store of high reputation for style and quality is undoubted. Men are often more particular about the details of their dress than women. You will make no mistake, however, in going to the store of MacDonald & Campbell, 1234-26 Chestnut Street. Silk shirts are always appreciated and MacDonald & Campbell have an unusual assortment in plain white or smart-looking stripes. Then there are the silk or wool mufflers, hosiery, handkerchiefs, gloves, belts, bow-ties, knitted wool sweaters coats and vests—all of which will make delightful Christmas gifts.

ARE you sure that you have all the candles that you want for Christmas? You can get perfectly lovely ones in all colors, including real Bayberry ones, at the store of J. Franklin Miller, 1612 Chestnut Street. And I think it is a charming custom to place a lighted candle in the window on Christmas Eve. Miller's also have very attractive candlesticks, both of brass and mahogany, and delicate hand-painted scenes, too. But speaking of hand-painted gifts, their boxes, trays and especially their new perforated tin sugar baskets all artistically decorated, make very pleasing gifts. While probably one of the most appropriate gifts is a Cape Cod Firelighter to kindle the Yuletide-log. They are priced at 44 and upward.

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