

AMERICANS FAVOR OPEN CONFERENCE

Delegates Discuss Publicity for Arms Session.

HARDING TALKS AT DINNER

President in Letter Declares He Has No Idea Absolute Disarmament Is Attainable.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 12.—(By the Associated Press.)—The American delegation to the armament conference held its first meeting today, elected a permanent organization, made a general survey of the data gathered for its guidance and began discussion of the questions of policy that are to characterize the position of this government in the coming negotiations.

One of the first specific subjects to be considered was the problem of open or closed sessions for the armament conference and discussion is said to have revealed considerable sentiment for opening the doors whenever the entire body of delegates meet to register important decisions.

President Talks at Dinner.

Other and broader questions of policy also were given detailed examination during the three and a half hour meeting of the delegation and tonight the delegates continued their discussions and heard the views of President Harding at a White House dinner. It was indicated another consultation was probable early next week.

None of those at the meeting would reveal details of the deliberations regarding publicity for the conference sessions, but the impression was given that this government might lay before the delegates after they assemble here on November 11 a proposal that all full sessions of the conference be open to the press. The recommendation, it was said, would not apply to the meetings of individual national delegations, committees or other subordinate bodies where the real decisions of the negotiations may be made, but would give publicity to such gatherings as that which will mark the opening of the conference and to the sessions where formal notes on pending questions are taken.

Conference to Settle Matter.

The question, however, is one which the conference itself must decide, and it is expected the American delegation will take every precaution not to appear to urge its opinions on the representatives of other powers. It is pointed out that the plan for open sessions for the full conference is in accord with a resolution by Senator Harrison, democrat, Mississippi, now pending in the senate.

Today's meeting of the delegates was held in the office of Secretary Hughes, head of the delegation, whose colleagues—Elihu Root and Senators Lodge and Underwood—formally delegated him to act as spokesman in making public such details as seemed practicable. Afterward Mr. Hughes announced the selection of Basil Miles, a former chief of the department's Russian division, as secretary of the delegation, and made it known the meeting was taken up largely with a review of the data collected by government agencies for the American representatives.

Most of this data has been put into the form of monographs on diplomatic military and naval subjects likely to come before the conference. Similar exhaustive compilations on other subjects now are in process of preparation and will be supplied as the delegates' work progresses. In each case the historical background of the subject is included in the exposition, and every military and naval topic discussed is presented in the light of the attending economic and political situation.

Preparations Are Outlined.

Full information also was supplied to the delegates regarding the physical preparations made for the conference, a memorandum on that subject being submitted for Under-Secretary Fletcher, who is in charge of physical plans. The proposal to use the Pan-American platform for the conference sessions was endorsed and the delegation made suggestions regarding the allotment of space for delegates and committees there in a wing of the navy department building adjacent. Secretary Hughes formally communicated receipt of a tender of services for research by the Carnegie endowment and announced that the new conference division of the state department, created to deal specifically with problems connected with the negotiations, was ready for utilization.

The general principles on which the negotiations conducted are understood to have been communicated also by Secretary Hughes, although a concrete discussion of that subject was delayed until the meeting tonight with the president himself. It is understood that henceforth the chief executive intends to communicate frequently with the delegates, who are acting as his agents in pressing the policies of this government, but does not plan to inject himself actively into the exchanges with the other powers. He is said to feel that he can be of greater service by keeping in a position where he can become an arbiter in any threatened disagreement.

Talks to Be Frequent.

The closest touch is to be maintained among the delegates themselves. Mr. Root will leave tomorrow for New York, but he will not lose touch with the situation and will hold himself in readiness to return to the capital. Senators Lodge and Underwood are expected to have frequent talks with Mr. Hughes and the president, as questions arise on which they desire further enlightenment.

There has been no proposal to subsidize the commission for intensive study of specific problems, the members holding that for the time being can best function by all keeping as fully advised as possible on all subjects likely to engage the attention of the conference. Should a division be deemed advisable as the duties of the delegation become heavier, it will be coincident with the assembling of the delegates. It became known that the list of possible subjects drawn up by this government for consideration at the conference remains, so far as diplomatic formalities are concerned, practically where it was when the state department submitted it to the other powers. It has not yet been definitely agreed to, but department officials take an optimistic view of the circumstances that no objections have been filed by any government.

Communications to Come Up.

One addition has been suggested by the United States. It was revealed today that a communication recently was sent to the powers expressing a desire to add the topic "electrical communications in the Pacific" under

the original heading "mandated islands."

The effect, it is expected, will be to give the conference an opportunity to consider the whole subject of wireless and cable facilities and control in the far east.

The suggested addition may have particular application to the island of Yap, over which Japan was awarded a mandate by the league of nations. This government has desired to establish a wireless station on Yap and has challenged the authority of the league to award the island without consulting Washington. There have been indications that this particular wireless problem was nearing a solution through diplomatic exchanges and might be eliminated from the field of controversial questions.

Some hint of President Harding's hopes for the armament conference were given as the delegates were assembling by publication of a letter the president had written in reply to a prayer that he work for "universal disarmament." Absolute disarmament, Mr. Harding wrote, was "beyond hope of realization," and perhaps not very desirable, but "a reasonable limitation" of armament was a practical proposition with some hope of accomplishment.

Similar sentiments have been expressed generally by military and naval authorities. It is understood that the first consideration of those familiar with the international situation has been rather a "reasonable limitation" of future armament construction than a scaling down of present strength. The latter, it is pointed out, could well be considered after a building program for the future had been agreed upon.

The letter in which President Harding outlined his hope for "reasonable limitation" was made public at the White House as expressing the executive's attitude toward the views of all those who have written him to work for complete disarmament. The letter was addressed to Miss Ella L. Freed, Brooklyn, N. Y., and was as follows:

"My Dear Miss Freed: Four letters, among others that come to me, suggest a widespread misapprehension as to the aims of the conference on limitation of armaments. In my letter of October 5, I said to you: 'I think I ought to correct your impression about the execution of universal disarmament. It is very erroneous even to suggest that we contemplate going so far as that. If we can get a reasonable limitation we shall think that great things have been accomplished.'"

Practical Programme in Mind.

"You replied that my letter seemed to bring a message of hopelessness to those seeking universal disarmament and asked me to explain 'reasonable limitation.'"

"By 'reasonable limitation' I mean something 'practicable' that there is a chance of accomplishing, rather than an ideal that there would be no chance to realize. It is necessary to deal with actualities; to do the best possible. Universal disarmament would be beyond hope of realization; even its desirability at this time might well be questioned. Thousands of years of history, recording the wars and controversies of mankind, suggest that human nature would require revolutionary reorganization to make universal disarmament possible. A consideration of the present state of the world must, I think, enforce the conclusion that this is not a hopeful time to undertake that kind of revolution."

Outlook Declared Hopeful.

"On the other hand, a world with the horrors of recent experience seared into its mind and staggering under the load of debt and armaments, has generously justified our hope for a favorable attitude toward the practical effort the sincere bargaining that we are attempting. The fine spirit in which leading nations have received the invitation to meet and consider these things is altogether encouraging. To undertake the impossible and fail might leave our last state worse than our first. The attitude of the nations warrants confidence that we will not fail, but rather that substantial results will be accomplished, calculated to lessen the armament burden and to reduce the danger of armed conflict. I feel that in such an effort we are entitled to the support of all people who would be glad—as I can assure you I would be—to see still more accomplished if possible. Most sincerely yours, WARREN G. HARDING."

BALFOUR MAY BE DELEGATE

Lloyd George May Reconsider Decision Not to Attend.

LONDON, Oct. 12.—(By the Associated Press.)—No official announcement has been made concerning the British delegation to the Washington conference on limitation of armaments. Reuter's learns, however, from high authority that J. Balfour, lord president of the council, may yield to the pressure being made to induce him to attend.

The rumor persists that Premier Lloyd George may reconsider his decision not to go.

STATE MAY REST TODAY

OUTSIDE EVIDENCE IN SOUTH-ARD CASE BARRED.

Number of Physicians Yet to Be Called to Whom Hypothetical Questions Will Be Put.

TWIN FALLS, Idaho, Oct. 12.—(Unless final permission is given for the introduction of evidence bearing upon the circumstances of death of three former husbands and a brother-in-law, the state will rest its case some time tomorrow in the trial of Lydia Meyer Southard for the murder of Edward P. Meyer, her fourth husband, according to plans announced by attorneys today.

The defense will recall one or two witnesses for cross-examination and the state will call in a number of physicians who have not yet testified, to whom one or more hypothetical questions will be put. This will close the state's case.

Taking of evidence was resumed late today upon a ruling by Judge Babcock sustaining temporarily the objection of the defense to the introduction of evidence outside of the case of the death of Meyer as charged in the information. The question may be reopened at any time, however.

KNIGHTS INITIATE 110

Services Are Attended and Banquet and Ball Close Session.

Fourth degree initiations for 110 members of the Knights of Columbus from 20 Oregon councils were conducted yesterday in the Knights of Columbus hall, with Colonel J. O'Neill, master of the fourth degree for the district, superintending. Following the initiation ceremony the members of the order attended dinners and the benediction ceremony at Pro-Cathedral, Fifteenth and Davis streets.

The exercises at the cathedral were under the personal supervision of Archbishop Christie. The entire day's observances were in keeping with the general celebration of Columbus day. The initiation closed with a banquet and ball at the Multnomah

hotel with all fourth-degree knights and the newly accepted members in attendance. Joseph J. Burke presided as chairman.

Jacksonville Post Sold. MEDFORD, Or., Oct. 12.—(Special.)—The Jacksonville Post of Jacksonville, one of the oldest weeklies in Oregon, has just changed hands, Tom Fulton, its owner and editor for the last two years having sold it to S. P. Shutt and son Harold, who followed the newspaper business in eastern Oregon for a number of years. The new owners take charge after this week's issue.

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