

CONFERENCE OVER DISARMAMENT NOT TO BE IN SECRET

By David Lawrence
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Washington, D. C., July 12.—The disarmament conference of the great powers to be held here next autumn will not be a secret conclave.

Although the invitations were limited to Great Britain, Japan, Italy, France, the United States and China, the other nations of the world will have an opportunity to keep posted on what is being done and to offer concurrently, through diplomatic channels, any suggestions or ideas bearing on a solution of the problems that come up for discussion.

The government here felt that by asking the group known as the principal allied and associated powers, more progress would be made than by attempting to have a big assembly which might resolve itself into a debating society and get no results. As one official spokesman of the administration phrased it today, the conference called by Mr. Harding is not "a shoot in the air" but an attempt "to get results."

FAR EAST MAIN OBSTACLE

The same official, who, of course, is conversant with every phase of our foreign policy, made it clear that it was perfectly useless to talk about disarmament if the problems of the Far East were not settled to everybody's satisfaction. He pointed out that so long as people felt insecure about developments in the Pacific there would be no inclination to dispense with naval armaments. In other words, when the sources of possible friction and war were removed once for all in the Pacific, there would be much more rapid progress toward disarmament. This, indeed, is the answer made by the government to the criticism that the disarmament conference should not have included a discussion of Far Eastern problems and that the tangles over the latter would delay and obstruct the disarmament movement itself.

OPPOSITE VIEW TAKEN

But the government takes just the opposite view, namely, until the questions pending with Japan and China and the European and American nations over the Far East are out of the way, nobody will make a sincere move toward limiting armaments. The fact is the conference called by President Harding is an endeavor to achieve practical results in the field of diplomacy at the same

time that an agreement on naval expense is attempted. Heretofore the main excuse for armaments has been some specter of war. The United States government, along with the British and French and Italian governments which have interests in the Far East, now will seek to establish a series of common principles so as to make it impracticable for Japan or China to get tangled up in disputes that will involve the powers across the Pacific.

RUSSIA ALWAYS BOBS UP

The problem of Russia has injected itself incidentally with a big interrogation mark heretofore in every Far Eastern dispute handled by the great powers, whether it included an expression of opinion on the open door commercially, such as Secretary John Hay elicited, or whether it touched questions of territorial integrity. Russia and Germany were always consulted. In fact, they were principals in the discussion. But Germany is powerless. She has been ordered disarmed by the treaty of Versailles. She is considered impotent so far as jeopardizing anybody's interest in the Far East is concerned.

RUSSIA NOW UP

As for Russia, one of the big powers, least of all the United States, feels that Russian cooperation at this time can be attained. Russia has put herself out of the family circle so far as having a voice in the decisions of the powers is concerned. But Russia will eventually be bound just the same as will Germany to subscribe to the general principles that will be evolved in the parley on Far Eastern questions here next fall. Something more specific and more binding than John Hay's open door policy though founded on the same ideas of equity and justice, will be formulated with all the solemnity of a treaty obligation. Possibly it will not be a mere exchange of notes, for that process has its disadvantages in the fact that changing administrations can ignore the action of their predecessors, but probably a treaty or convention will be negotiated which will make it unnecessary for the British to renew their alliance with the Japanese.

ALL NATIONS ON PAR

It will put all nations on a par and remove the so-called "sphere of influence" as well as the "special interests" which were back of the Anglo-Japanese alliance.

Such a treaty or convention would be a "regional understanding," and as such is permitted by the covenant of the League of Nations. While America is not a member of the league, nevertheless all the other powers are bound by the covenant not to make any treaty inconsistent with that document, and that making of a regional understanding is wholly in line with the principles of the covenant. The object of the regional understanding will be not to protect special interests, but to promote the general peace, and to move toward disarmament.

WOULD LET THEM IN

Russia and Germany in due time would be subscribers to the principles enunciated at the Washington confer-

ence. They will not eventually be admitted to the councils of the powers until they recognize and agree to such principles. Thus the smaller group of powers meeting in Washington will not be handicapped as was the Versailles conference by the large number of delegates, which means endless discussion, but will draw up agreements which, while in the making, will be shown to all nations that may be interested, and thus in effect offer a program of peace to the whole world, including not simply naval disarmament, but the abolition of poisonous gases and the limitation of air as well as land and sea weapons of destruction.

Northwest Gas Men to Gather Here Saturday

Prior to the annual convention of the Pacific Coast Gas Association in September at Monterey, Cal., the Northwest set-against meeting will take place in Portland next Saturday.

A trip over the Columbia river highway will be followed by a banquet at the Multnomah hotel, which will be attended by about 100 gas men, according to the program arranged by William M. Kapus, president of the association. Judge Robert O. Morrow will deliver the principal address on "Reminiscences of the Gas Industry." President Kapus has heard from several out-of-state people to the effect that they are going to attend the meeting, among whom are Henry Bostwick, vice president, and W. M. Henderson, secretary of the association, both from San Francisco; Charles A. Dickey, president of the American Motor company, of Baltimore, Md.; E. J. Young, general manager of the Tacoma Gas & Fuel company, Tacoma, and M. C. Hancock, general manager of the North Pacific Public Service company, of Aberdeen, Wash.

Mexico Takes First Step for Adjustment of Foreign Claims

Mexico City, July 12.—(U. P.)—Mexico today took the first step toward adjusting the claims of foreign countries growing out of damages to lives and property in the various revolutions.

President Obregon issued a decree inviting foreign nations to appoint delegates to a claims commission. Foreign Minister Pani was authorized to sign the necessary preliminary agreements.

SAILORMEN SORRY THEY MUST SAIL; WANT TO RETURN

Officers and men of the destroyers Bruce, Zellan and Aaron Ward expressed regret at having to leave Portland this morning when the little craft pulled away from the dock and headed down stream. The 11-day visit, marred by but one fiasco, gave them an opportunity to see real Portland and in accord they voted it the town of the coast.

At 8 o'clock the three ships got under way for Grays Harbor where they have been ordered to attend the state convention of the American Legion. They will arrive some time this afternoon and stay in port until July 15.

The only disappointment was in the delay in the trip up the Columbia river highway Tuesday. Thirty sailors from each ship had been invited and were ready to "shove off" when word came that there would be accommodations for only eight from each craft.

SHIP FUNDS CALLED INTO ACTION

To prevent disappointment Lieutenant (jg) W. Elliot, paymaster of the division, hired trucks for all save those included in the amended invitation. Seventy-five dollars of the amusement funds of the ships was expended.

Those reporting at the foot of Stark street for the ride met with greater trouble. The trip was scheduled at 1 o'clock and at 3 only 10 men had been taken. Two machines had been sent

down and the remaining 14 guests were left to wait.

David L. Stearns, who had charge of obtaining transportation for the sailors for the Chamber of Commerce, said he had been informed of the invitation Monday noon and had called more than 100 car owners. Three promised but failed to make good, he said.

ALL BUT FIVE SEE HIGHWAY

Lieutenant Commander Raymond Kerr of the Portland recruiting office sent the office machine into action and took four men. Finally another car was obtained and all were taken except five.

Realizing that the city of Portland had not fallen down but merely one branch of it, Lieutenant-Commander E. H. Connor, senior officer of the craft, was enthusiastic about the way the men and officers had been treated.

"The officers and men have spoken often of the marvelous hospitality of the people of Portland," he said, "and the general opinion is that this is more of a navy town than some of the rest along the coast."

HOPE FOR DUTY DURING FAIR

"Our one hope is that we will return soon and that we will be fortunate enough to have duty here during the 1925 exposition. All in all, the visit has been a great success."

One of the "goats" talking about Portland made the remark: "Some town—and, believe me, when I am paid off I am coming back."

That was the consensus of opinion.

Astoria Postal Receipts Grow
Astoria, July 12.—Receipts of the Astoria postoffice during the fiscal year closing July 1 showed a gain of approximately 1 per cent over those of the preceding year, according to Herman Wise, postmaster.

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