

France's Support of League, Demand for Submarines Vex Naval Conference

EDITOR'S NOTE—This is the fourth and last of a series of stories by Milton Bronner, European manager for NEA Service, on the problems before the London naval disarmament conference.

BY MILTON BRONNER
NEA Service Writer

LONDON, Jan. 24.—The success or failure of the London naval conference will depend to a great extent on the attitudes of France and Italy.

Some sort of compromise will be necessary if the conference is to come to agreement.

The French are prepared to make demands to which England and the United States will find it extremely hard to agree; and Italy, in turn, is ready to outline a program that will make the French emit loud cries of protest.

France has three main demands:

First, that the conference's decisions will not be final, but will be merely preparatory for the League of Nations general disarmament conference, at which the whole question of disarmament by air, sea and land will be discussed.

Second, that France must have a larger number of cruisers than the 5-5-3-1.75 battleship ratio accepted at the Washington conference would allow.

Third, that the abolition of the submarine must not be considered.

The Italian attitude is not quite so plain, but it seems apparent that it will consist of two points:

First, that the Italians will be willing to join America and England in a move for the total abolition of the submarine.

Second, that Italy must have naval parity with France.

In these five points there is enough material to tax the best brains in the conference to the utmost.

The first French demand will undoubtedly be unacceptable to the United States, in view of the United States' abhorrence of cooperation with the league.

The second French demand will not go down well with either the United States or England, especially England.

The third French demand, of course, cuts squarely across the Anglo-American desire to do away with the submarine.

Demands Vary Widely

The first Italian demand, on the other hand, lines Italy and France up on opposite sides of the fence; and the second Italian demand is sure to bring sharp opposition from France. The second French demand, incidentally, will not be highly acceptable to Italy, either.

Of the three French demands, the most cherished is the last. It is a curious fact that whereas the French Parliament, the French press and the French public are deeply enamored of the submarine as the country's best naval weapon, French naval strategists are looking upon it with a cool eye. Admiral Castex, the leading French naval tactician, recently published a book declaring that the submarine is utterly unable to dispute supremacy with the surface ship, and French naval leaders generally share his views.

But the French are continuing to build submarines; their figures indicate that the "bready" have the strongest submarine flotilla in the world. French submarine tonnage is listed at \$2,249, with the United States at \$2,249, with \$8,979 tons; furthermore, the French submarines, on the average, are larger and more powerful than the American subs.

French Army Greatest

France now has the world's greatest army and the world's greatest military air force. Obviously this wealth of armaments is not aimed at either the United States or Japan. The only other possible enemies for France are Germany, England and Italy. Anglo-French relations are good; and Germany has almost no army, although her

FRANCE HAS WORLD'S LARGEST SUB

The largest and most powerful submarine in the world now is a warship of the French navy.

Recently launched, this vessel is the Surcouf. She is 424 feet long and has a surface speed of 22 miles an hour, can travel 10 and one-half miles an hour when submerged and can dive to a depth of 420 feet, or 80 feet deeper than the existing record. Her total displacement is 3,257 tons.

The Surcouf carries a crew of 150, has four 5.2-inch guns and one a 11-inch gun and 14 torpedo tubes, all of which can be fired at once. Her deck is armor plated and she has a waterproof hangar housing a seaplane, which can be taken out and made ready for flight in five minutes.

To all intents and purposes, the Surcouf is a powerful cruiser which can submerge when desired.

navy is growing and she has a great fleet of commercial planes. But Italy—well, Franco-Italian rivalry may prove a big stumbling block for the conference.

The French insist they must have many cruisers and submarines to protect their Mediterranean communications with their vast empire in North Africa, whence they draw food, raw materials and army recruits. They also point out that France has a large and growing merchant marine which needs protection.

On the other hand the Italians also have an African empire; less large and less well-populated than France's, but important nevertheless. And the Italians—who, like the French, openly discuss the prospects for a Franco-Italian war—insist that their navy must be equal to the French navy, so that Italy cannot be cut off from her African communications.

Need Two Fleets, Says France

But France points out that this is impossible. The French, in fact, claim that they really need two fleets; one to safeguard their interests in the Mediterranean, one to look after their interests and shipping in the Atlantic and the English channel. If French and Italian naval strengths were exactly equal, they say, Italy would really be the stronger, because part of the French force would have to be kept out on the high seas. So France has been suggesting that the Italian navy be kept exactly equal to the French Mediterranean fleet.

To Italy, however, this kind of equality would be quite unacceptable. The Italians are quick to point out that in case of war France could quickly bring in her Atlantic fleet and have a considerable superiority. They also say that they have a merchant marine that is rapidly growing in size and importance, and that in case of war they would have to keep the sea lanes open for the hundreds of thousands of Italians in Brazil, the United States and elsewhere who would come home to fight.

Allied With Others

Nor is this all. France and Italy are jealous of each other's African empires, and they are at cross purposes in the Balkans. France has made allies of Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Rumania. Italy has cultivated the friendship of Bulgaria and Hungary, and has made Albania a firm Italian ally. Albania, incidentally, is starting to build a navy, which in case of war could be counted in with the Italian forces.

All of these issues will have to be threshed out at the London conference before a five-power agreement can be reached. This outlines how involved a problem the conference faces.

AIRSHIP TAKES AID TO ISLAND

Oregonian Sends Doctor to Puget Island to Save Life of Nine-Year-Old Girl

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 24. (A P) A 9-year-old girl today stood an excellent chance of recovering from a five-day attack of pneumonia after medical science and aviation combined last night to save her life in a snowbound village on an island in the mid-Columbia river.

Rankin Takes Doctor

Informing that Jane McGilvray, 9, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. McGilvray Longview, Wash., was seriously ill on Puget island, between Cathlamet, Wash., and Westport, Ore., the Oregonian arranged with Tex Rankin, Portland aviator, to take Dr. Ernest L. Boylen, Portland physician, to the island by plane.

Flew Through Snow

With intermittent snow storms hiding the contour of the land, and with temperature slightly above the freezing point, Rankin and the physician flew 80 miles from Portland to Puget island, where they made a safe landing on dangerous ground.

Dr. Boylen remained on the island when it developed that other persons were in need of medical attention.

Island Isolated

Puget island has been isolated since great cakes of ice blocked the Columbia river and thwarted attempts of steamers to call with supplies. Yesterday storekeepers said there was a shortage of food, but supplies were understood to have been brought in today by a tugboat.

WANT OWN FLAG

TORONTO—Much interest is being shown throughout Canada in the movement recently launched to adopt a Canadian flag, other than England's Union Jack. The Canadian red ensign which is now used is not recognized in parliament. Some are in favor of retaining the Union Jack but adding to it something distinctive.

According to estimates of the American Federation for the Blind one person in every 1000 of average population is blind.

Feb. 1st Date of Key Announcement

SALEM, Jan. 24. (AP)—In an interview published in the Salem Statesman today, State Treasurer T. B. Kay said that he will announce whether or not he will be a candidate for the republican nomination for governor. He said it would not be before nor after that date.

"You may be assured," Kay said, "that if I do make the race my health will permit me to make a strenuous campaign."

GEYSERS HEAT CITY

REYKJAVIK, Iceland—It is planned to heat this city, capital of Iceland, without coal and from one central point. The plan entails the harnessing of the heat of the natural geysers abounding in this territory. Already schools and other public places are heated in this manner. It is also planned to pass heated pipes from these geysers through the ground, heating it to a degree enabling the growth of vegetables.

The Chinese claim to be the originators of the newspaper. The Imperial Gazette of Peking is said to have been published for over 1500 years.



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California Small White Beans. Noted for their fine cooking quality.

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California Red Mexican Beans. Note the price.

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Fancy Southern Blue Rose Rice.

5 lbs. **35c**

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Fresh Extra Eggs, absolutely guaranteed fresh.

2 doz. **85c**

LARD

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each **69c**

Baking Powder

Rumford's Baking Powder, in 16 oz. tins.

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Those famous Twin Peak Cut String Beans. They're fine. No. 2 tins.

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Libby's large No. 2 1/2 Melba Halves Peaches. They are delicious.

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Baby Beef Roasts — lb. **22c**

Franks and Bologna — lb. **25c**

Shoulder Pork Steaks — lb. **25c**

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