

Institute Pacific Relations

D R A F T

Honolulu, Hawaii,
July 30, 1927.

To the Chairman of the Council,
Royal Institute of International Affairs,
Chatham House, St. James Square,
London, S.W.1.

Dear Lord Meston:

The Conference of the Institute of Pacific Relations closed on the night of the twenty-eighth instant. Next day Sir Frederick Whyte, the leader of the British Party, sailed for Japan and China on the President Taft with Mr. and Mrs. Hodgkin, and Professor Webster (who holds the Woodrow Wilson Chair of International Politics in the University of Wales). Sir Frederick's decision to visit the Far East before returning to England was taken at such short notice that he entrusted to me the task of preparing a preliminary report on the Institute of Pacific Relations and the conference which has just taken place under its auspices. The contents of this letter were duly discussed with Sir Frederick and the British members who have gone East, and have also been read and approved by those who remain. Their names are listed at the end of this letter.

To begin with I may remind you of the circumstances under which we attended this Conference. In the course of our studies in the last two years it came to be felt that Europe was not the only or perhaps the main centre in which another storm might arise to involve the world in war. It became apparent that round the shores of the Pacific were developing conditions which unless studied and treated in time might lead to a catastrophe which might not be limited to the Eastern Hemisphere.

In the small community from which I am writing in the mid-Pacific is a group of Europeans descended from the missionaries who first Christianized the Sandwich Islands. They are now engaged in shipping and other large business enterprise, which brings them into intimate touch with every shore of this ocean. Some years ago they began to view with growing anxiety the conditions to which I refer, and decided to invite persons like themselves from various Pacific countries to meet them here and discuss what private citizens could do to deal with the causes which left to take their course might disturb the peace of this ocean. In July, 1925, there came to Honolulu in