

111. *Le Premier ministre au premier ministre du Royaume-Uni*

Dear Mr. Lloyd George,

Paris, April 18, 1919

I attended again at a meeting of Foreign Ministers yesterday afternoon and the results were somewhat more satisfactory than at the previous meeting.<sup>1</sup> The British proposals with respect to Egypt and the French proposals with respect to Morocco were accepted as part of the general clause providing for Germany's renunciation of territorial and other interests in various parts of the world. There was a good deal of difficulty in bringing about this result as at first Mr. Lansing seemed desirous of a further reference to the Drafting Committee. That reference was made as to some other matters, but the proposals with respect to Egypt and Morocco stand with amendments which are not important from the British standpoint.

There was a considerable discussion with respect to the article declaring the validity of judgments pronounced by the Prize Courts of Allied Nations during the war. The draft proposals of the United States are sent herewith for your information.<sup>2</sup> At the meeting on Tuesday Mr. Lansing stated that he did not press the third paragraph of his draft. On Thursday, however, his attitude was changed and he pressed for it strongly. Mr. Hurst informs me that the real question at issue relates to the proposal of the United States Government that the German ships in their possession but not yet condemned by the Prize Courts shall be held and appropriated by the United States free from any claim of other Allied Nations. The Americans base this claim on the fact that ships condemned are thus disposed of and that they should not be prejudiced by the fact that under their constitution the Prize Courts of the United States cease to have jurisdiction upon the conclusion of peace.

Mr. Lansing inquired specifically as to the nature and reason of the British objection to the third paragraph of his draft. I informed him that he would receive a reply, and he asked that it should be given in writing.

As to the third paragraph, I took the ground that the subject was under consideration by the Reparation Commission, that provision for liquidation of Enemy Property has been recommended by the Economic Commission, and that upon the view put forward by Mr. Lansing himself in connection with other questions the subject should be disposed of by a general article.

Faithfully yours,

R. L. BORDEN

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<sup>1</sup> Voir le document n° 108.

<sup>2</sup> Non reproduit.