

recently requested the Governing Board of the Pan American Union to call a fourth consultative meeting of foreign ministers to discuss her relations with the other States of the hemisphere. As we will see later, the Argentina request was turned down. But arrangements were made to hold a special meeting of the American republics at Mexico City in February, 1945. Argentina, however, was not invited.

The Lima Conference also adopted a Declaration of American Principles which elaborated a Declaration of Inter-American Solidarity that had been adopted at Buenos Aires.

Another resolution dealt with the treatment of minorities. It had become evident that the Nazi-fascist powers were using their relatively large minorities in certain countries of South America as instruments of economic and political penetration. In these circumstances, the Brazilian delegate proposed a resolution to the effect that the principle of political minorities be not recognized in America.

The preamble of this resolution, which was unanimously adopted, states that "the system of protection of ethnical, language, or religious minorities cannot have any application whatsoever in America, where the conditions which characterize the groups known as minorities do not exist."

It is unfortunate that other language was not found to express the sentiment of the Conference on the issue; for in Canada at least, the protection of certain minorities is a constitutional principle. It is clear, however, that the Conference did not have in mind minorities such as the French Canadian minority in this country. This is clear from the enacting part of the resolution which declares that "residents who, according to domestic law, are considered aliens cannot claim collectively the condition of minorities....." On the other hand resolutions were adopted decrying persecution for religious and racial reasons.

PANAMA MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS (1939)

While there have been no meetings in the regular series of Pan American conferences since 1938 (the proposed Bogota Conference of 1943 having been postponed), three very important meetings of American foreign minister have taken place. The first of these was the Panama Meeting of September 23-October 3, 1939. This meeting reflected the policy of neutrality which was then common to all the American republics; and the main preoccupation of the delegates was to harmonize their national policies in such a way as to reduce in so far as possible the dislocations that the war could be expected to produce in their economic systems.

The intention of the republics to remain neutral in the new world conflict was manifested in such instruments as the General Declaration of Neutrality, a resolution on contraband, and the abortive Declaration of Panama. The last-mentioned declaration presumed to create a neutrality belt of some 300 miles around the whole of the Western Hemisphere, except Canada and Newfoundland, within which no belligerent act was to be permitted. As it is well known the declaration did not influence the conduct of the belligerents, something which the sinking of the Graf Spee by the British navy off Montevideo soon proved in dramatic fashion.

Another resolution contemplated the possibility that the