

5. General Burns suggests in his telegram No. 1898 of December 4 (copy attached) that we should not intervene publicly, but that our role should be to encourage the neutrals behind the scenes to develop their ideas and to press them vigorously at the Conference. This is probably sound so far as it goes, and it is certainly desirable that they should carry forward their April 16 memorandum and try to devise an interim arrangement consistent with paragraph 6 of resolution 1762, part A. But the question remains to what extent the Canadian Delegation should encourage them to work along certain lines, and how we could accomplish this if we cannot put forward any of our own ideas outside the Western Four. In any event, the series of general points which telegram 1898 suggests might be raised with them appears to be satisfactory as a start, except for the suggestion in sub-paragraph 6(a) that we should be encouraging them to think in terms of "a quota" of events to be inspected or explained. As you know our own proposal would not be compatible as it stands with the quota idea. The suggestion in this paragraph that there might be a "two tier Commission" also seems to raise difficulties and complications, and should probably be played down.

6. Supposing we do follow the approach recommended by General Burns so far as the neutrals are concerned, it remains to be decided what we would do with our own paper. That is to say, we would have to decide whether to stick with it more or less as it now stands, or to introduce amendments to meet what would appear to be American views. The latter course of action is not easy, because we have had no clear suggestions as to precisely how we would need to amend it; and some of the questions raised by the American Delegation appear more likely to prolong the discussion than to assist in drafting a useful paper. (This last difficulty is reinforced by a comment made to our Embassy in Washington to the effect that "a special working group" might be set up in Geneva to examine our paper.) If in fact, as our Disarmament Delegation reports, the "USA and UK now seem most unlikely to accept an arrangement, to be applied on an interim and experimental basis, which would offer less guaranty than contained in their comprehensive draft treaty," then further discussion of our paper at this time is not likely to produce a viable compromise.

7. Our own conclusion would be that, so far as the Western Four [are] concerned, we should attempt to clarify our paper as much as possible, but we should not agree to any fundamental modification such as the inclusion of obligatory on-site inspections on a quota basis. If, however, our allies show a real interest in developing a proposal in terms similar to those we have suggested, we might agree to modifications along the lines of some of the suggestions contained in the notes to the original version sent to DISARMDEL. As for the neutrals, we might agree that General Burns pursue the general line he has suggested (with the exceptions mentioned above) subject to further instructions in the light of consideration of our paper in the Western Four and other developments in the Conference.

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