

agreed that there might perhaps be an appeal from the Reparation Commission to a body like the Financial Committee of the League of Nations on the question whether a default was serious or flagrant. The questions whether the United States Government could be in any way associated with the body entrusted with the declaration of default, and whether the Reparation Commission would still be able to declare a default by a majority vote were reserved for further consideration. It was agreed that the question of the safety of the communications of French troops in the occupied area should be referred to experts. The British idea of an overhead agreement between the Allies and Germany, binding both parties to bring the Dawes scheme into operation and suggesting the necessary steps to accomplish this, was explained to M. Herriot. The meeting agreed that a conference should be summoned and settled which Powers should be invited. Views were also exchanged on inter-Allied debts and French security, but Mr. MacDonald made it plain that he was not prepared to come to decisions on these subjects until the Dawes Report was out of the way.

26. Shortly after the Chequers meeting, invitations to attend a conference in London on the 16th July, to concert the necessary arrangements for giving effect to the Dawes scheme, were sent by His Majesty's Government to Italy, Belgium, Japan and the United States. His Majesty's Government embodied in the invitations an *exposé* of the views which the Prime Minister had put before M. Herriot at Chequers concerning the measures which it would be necessary to take to apply the scheme.

*Foreign Office, July 10, 1924.*