

DEFINITE OVERTONES FROM PEACE TERMS

General Peace on No Annexation or Indemnity Basis Teutons Would Bind Allies by Russian Terms

Germany Anxious For General Peace, Count Czernin Told Conference; Wants Assurance That Entente Would Keep Faith

By Courier Leased Wire. Petrograd, Dec. 26.—The Central Powers, Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, told the peace conference at Brest-Litavsk yesterday, solemnly declare their resolve to sign terms which will terminate the war on conditions equally just to all belligerents.

Count Czernin declared that the Central Powers believed that the basic principles uttered by the Russian delegates could be a basis of such a peace. He said they shared Russian condemnation of a continuation of the war for the sake of conquest.

It is necessary, the Count added to indicate most clearly, however, that the Russian proposals could be realized only in the event that all belligerents obligated themselves to adhere to the terms of such a peace.

The Austro-Hungarian foreign minister declared that the Central Powers did not intend to forcibly annex territories seized during the war, nor to deprive nations of political independence lost in the war.

The question of the separation of nationalities who have not political independence to another country cannot be solved internationally and must be met by each government and its people in the manner established by the constitution of that government.

In the event of a mutual refusal to meet war expenditures and pay damages caused by the war, Count Czernin continued, each belligerent shall bear only the expense of its subjects made prisoner and damages caused to property of civilian subjects by deliberate violations of international law on the part of the adversary.

Count Czernin explained the position of the Central Powers in a statement which he read at the second session of the peace conference at 10 o'clock Tuesday evening. His statement follows:

"The delegations of the allied (Teutonic) powers acting upon the clearly expressed will of their governments and peoples, will conclude as soon as possible a general peace. The delegations in complete accord with the repeatedly expressed viewpoint of their government, think that the basic principles of the Russian delegation can be made the basis of such a peace.

"The delegations of the quadruple alliance are agreed immediately to conclude a general peace without forcible annexations and indemnities. They share the view of the Russian delegation, which condemns the continuation of the war purely for reasons of conquest."

The statement of the allied (Teutonic) governments in program and statements, have emphasized time and again that for the sake of conquest they will not prolong the war a single day. The governments of the allies unswervingly have followed this view all the time. They solemnly declare their resolve immediately to sign terms of peace which will stop this war on the above terms, equally just to all belligerents without exception. It is necessary, however, to indicate most clearly that the proposals of the Russian delegation could be realized only in the event that all belligerents obligated themselves to adhere to the terms of such a peace.

Following is declared. "The return of colonial territories forcibly seized during the war constitutes an essential part of German demands, which Germany cannot renounce under any circumstances. Likewise the Russian demand for immediate evacuation of territories occupied by an adversary conforms to German intentions. Having in view the nature of the colonial territories of Germany the realization of the right of self-determination beside the above outlined considerations, in the form proposed by the Russian delegation is at present practically impossible.

"The circumstances that in the German colonies the natives, notwithstanding the greatest difficulties and the improbability of victory in a struggle against an adversary many times stronger and who had the advantage of being import by sea remained in the gravest circumstances, faithful to the German friends, may serve as proof of their attachment and their resolve by all means to preserve allegiance to Germany, proof which by its significance and weight is far superior to any expression of popular will. The principles of economic relations proposed by the Russian delegation in connection with the above six clauses are approved wholly by the delegations of the small allied powers who always have denied any economic restrictions and who see in the re-establishment of regulated economic relations, which are in accord with the interests of all people concerned, one of the most important conditions for bringing about friendly relations between the powers now engaged in war."

"The Entente Allies up to this time have not recognized the lawful right of the Bolshevik Government to rule Russia, and they have not agreed to the terms Russia proffered at the beginning of the Brest-Litovsk conference. Recent utterances of responsible allied leaders have expressed opposition to German-made peace. Premier Lloyd George and President Wilson recently have declared that peace with Prussian military autocracy still in power was impossible. Meanwhile the Bolsheviks are taking measures to placate their opponents. Seven members of the Social Revolutionary party, which has a majority of the Constituent Assembly, have been admitted to the Council of National Commissioners. The Bolsheviks still retain their members in the council. Embassies of the Bolsheviks have failed in their attempt to effect a compromise with the Ukrainian Rada. Military operations are confined generally to the Italian northern front. Snow has fallen along the British front in France and there have been only patrol and artillery activities on the French front. After recapturing lost positions to the Col Del Rosso and Monte De Val Bella, the Italians were unable to hold them on account of enemy pressure and were forced to retire. The battle was of great violence and the Austro-Germans have been unable to follow up their initial success in the region west of the Brenna."

Admiral Sir John R. Jellicoe has been removed as British First Sea Lord and he succeeded by Admiral Sir Roslyn Wemyss, who has been Second Sea Lord. Admiral Wemyss is not as well known publicly as the former commander of the British grand fleet, but has had a varied war experience. British merchant shipping losses for the past week show the lowest total since the week ending November 11, when six vessels were lost. The loss of 12 ships, eleven of more than 1,600 tons and one of less than that tonnage compare favorably with the loss of 17 the previous week and 21 in the week ending December 9, in each of which 14 of more than 1,600 tons went down. Ukrainians Successful. London, Dec. 27.—Ukrainian forces, according to a report received from Petrograd by the Ukrainian Rada and forwarded by Reuters, have occupied the headquarters of the Fourth, Eighth and Eleventh armies on the Roumanian and southern western fronts. Those who resisted were disarmed and a quantity of guns and rifles was seized. The Ukrainians have occupied the station

RETIREMENT OF JELICOE HERALDS INFUSION OF YOUNGER BLOOD AND NEW VIGOR IN FLEET

FAILED TO PIERCE LINES

By Courier Leased Wire. Paris, Wednesday, Dec. 26.—(Delayed)—The Germans made two attacks on the Verdun front to-day, but were not able to break through the French lines, the war office to-night reports. The statement follows: "On the right bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) the enemy, after a very violent bombardment, made two attacks on our positions at Carrières wood. He was not able to break through our lines, and left many dead on the ground. "There was heavy artillery fighting in the region north of St. Quentin and in the sector of Saplignoul. "Macedonian front:—On December 26th there was no event of importance. Snow and fog in the mountains hinder military operations. "London, Dec. 27.—"Except for some hostile artillery activity north and east of Ypres," Field Marshal Haig reported to-day to the British war office, "there was nothing to report last night."

BOLSHEVIKI CHARGE U.S. WITH CONSPIRACY

Leon Trotsky Alleges That His Foster Country Plotted To Support General Kaledines

By Courier Leased Wire. London, Dec. 27.—The Bolshevik newspaper continues to print revelations of an alleged American plot to support General Kaledines, according to a Petrograd dispatch to The Morning Post, dated Tuesday. So far as Ambassador Francis is concerned, the dispatch adds, the whole alleged charge falls to the ground before the straightforward statement issued by him on Tuesday. Col. Kolpashnikoff, a Bulgarian foreign minister, adopted are calculated to intensify the hostility of the Russian proletariat toward the allies, which German agents also have fostered.

CENTRAL POWERS VIRTUALLY ACCEPT RUSS PEACE TERMS

Cannot Bind Themselves Unless Allies Will Recognize Terms—Ukrainian Forces Continue Uprising Against Bolsheviks

Virtual acceptance of the peace terms offered by Russia, was made by the Central Powers in a statement issued to the peace conference Tuesday by Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister. The Teutonic allies, however, cannot bind themselves to the Russian terms unless Russia's allies also recognize them and carry them out honestly toward the Central Powers. Peace without forcible annexations and indemnities is agreeable to the Central Powers and they will conclude a general peace immediately on conditions equally just to all the belligerents. The Central Powers share Russian condemnation of a prolongation of the war for the purpose of conquest. Count Czernin agrees that the people have the right of self-determination, but says that subject nationalities must solve their problem under the laws of the countries under whose sway they live. The Entente Allies up to this time have not recognized the lawful right of the Bolshevik Government to rule Russia, and they have not agreed to the terms Russia proffered at the beginning of the Brest-Litovsk conference. Recent utterances of responsible allied leaders have expressed opposition to German-made peace. Premier Lloyd George and President Wilson recently have declared that peace with Prussian military autocracy still in power was impossible. Meanwhile the Bolsheviks are taking measures to placate their opponents. Seven members of the Social Revolutionary party, which has a majority of the Constituent Assembly, have been admitted to the Council of National Commissioners. The Bolsheviks still retain their members in the council. Embassies of the Bolsheviks have failed in their attempt to effect a compromise with the Ukrainian Rada. Military operations are confined generally to the Italian northern front. Snow has fallen along the British front in France and there have been only patrol and artillery activities on the French front. After recapturing lost positions to the Col Del Rosso and Monte De Val Bella, the Italians were unable to hold them on account of enemy pressure and were forced to retire. The battle was of great violence and the Austro-Germans have been unable to follow up their initial success in the region west of the Brenna."

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First Sea Lord Did Not Retire Voluntarily, According to Belief Current in Old Land; Fleet Must Re-establish Its Prowess to Regain Public Confidence

By Courier Leased Wire. LONDON, DEC. 27.—THE PROMINENCE GIVEN TO THE RETIREMENT OF ADMIRAL SIR JOHN R. JELICOE, AS FIRST SEA LORD IN FAVOR OF VICE ADMIRAL SIR ROSLYN WEMYSS IN THE MORNING NEWS PAPERS, IS COMMENSURATE WITH HIS GREAT REPUTATION AND THE PLACE HE LONG HAS HELD IN PUBLIC ESTIMATION. NOTWITHSTANDING THE RECENT SEVERE ANIMADVERSIONS CONCERNING THE ADMIRALTY FROM SOME QUARTERS, SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS TREAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT AS A SENSATIONAL SURPRISE AND TWO OF THEM ACCOMPANY THEIR REMARKS WITH WARM EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET. THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, ONE OF THESE, CALLS FOR A FULLER OFFICIAL STATEMENT AND THE REASONS FOR ADMIRAL JELICOE'S RETIREMENT. "WELL FOUNDED PUBLIC CONFIDENCE" IN ADMIRAL JELICOE, "AND HOPES THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHANGE HAVE BEEN GUIDED WISELY IN THEIR DECISION."

On the other hand, The Daily Mail, which long has campaigned against Admiral Jellicoe, says openly that it cannot pretend regret. It adds that Sir Eric Geddes, first lord of the Admiralty, deserves the thanks of the country for not shrinking from a painful duty. The Times, though less frankly outspoken, does not conceal its satisfaction, and sees in the change the determination of the government to give younger men a chance. It says: "We heartily congratulate the government, having once taken a decision, on accepting its full consequences at once."

There is generally expressed the opinion that the first sea lord's removal is only the first of a series of changes, that it is evident that if expectation is not fulfilled, there will be great dissatisfaction in many quarters. In this connection, criticisms of the Admiralty administration are reserved. The Daily News for instance, says it is idle to pretend that the Admiralty record of the last months has inspired general confidence. It alludes to various causes of dissatisfaction, including the losses of convoys and adds: "All these things together worked naturally enough to discredit severely the theory of sea power for which Admiral Jellicoe has been understood to stand. But if the Admiralty is to regain complete confidence, which it has lost partially more is necessary than the change announced to-day."

It demands among other things, the establishment of a naval general staff. The Times, after referring to the convoys, also says: "These are by no means the whole of the story for there have been other misadventures. We would lay stress upon the cumulative effect of a series of episodes, every one of which has been unfortunate. That effect is to justify the general belief that there has been a lack of energy and foresight in the Admiralty."

As an instance of indications of this lack, The Times especially emphasizes the continuance of the submarine warfare on merchant vessels and complains that greater progress has not been made against the submarine. The Times contends that the submarine problem is no more insoluble than any other new problem of warfare and adds: "Our younger seamen are convinced that they can entirely overcome the submarine peril if they receive a free hand, which never yet has been granted. We share their faith."

Although nothing has been stated officially, it is implied by the newspapers that Admiral Jellicoe did not retire voluntarily, and according to The Telegraph, the government's decision was conveyed to him before Christmas in the form of an intimation that it had been determined to appoint a new first sea lord. Of the successor the public knows comparatively little on account of the fact that he never held a conspicuous command afloat, and had no administrative experience in the Admiralty until appointed second sea lord last summer. In the navy, however, Admiral Wemyss has a well established reputation. He also has a large and varied experience in the Admiralty which threw down the gauntlet at Gallipoli, received the unqualified praise of naval and military authorities.

BUNK FROM BOURASSA

By Courier Leased Wire. Montreal, Dec. 27.—Discussing the subject of the isolation of Quebec, Henri Bourassa in Le Devoir states that Union Government was not a coalition with the war, but a combination of forces to subjugate this province. "This object," he continues, "conceived in hatred and lies has run its normal course. It has roused up the 4,000,000 Protestants against everything Catholic and everything that is not British. It has revived the distrust of two million French-Canadians and 2,500,000 Catholics against everything Protestant and English. In a word the Canadian union has disintegrated. The troubles in India, South Africa, Australia and Ireland and our 'saviours' of the empire' have found the means to add inter-racial hatred in Canada. If the Kaiser was not too busy, he at Bratlov and disarmed the guards. A telegram received in Petrograd from Toms reports fighting in Irkutsk, Siberia. Cossacks and military cadets have engaged the garrison there for two days with alternating success."

EARTHQUAKE IN GUATEMALA

By Courier Leased Wire. Panama, Dec. 27.—An earthquake is reported to have occurred near Amatitlan, 15 miles south of Guatemala. Telegraphic communication has been interrupted, and no details have been received.

JAPS CONFERRED

By Courier Leased Wire. Osaka, Dec. 27.—This morning the emperor of Japan received Viscount Monoto, the foreign minister, with three members of the genera, Prince Yamagata, General Matsukaya and Viscount Saloni. The gravest significance is attached to the consultation as the subject of discussion is understood to have been the attitude Japan will take up in the event of Russia concluding a separate peace.

WEATHER BULLETIN Toronto, Dec. 27.—The weather has been fair and decidedly cold from Ontario to the Maritime provinces, but a sharp low depression accompanied by some light local snow falls has now moved into the lake region from the westward. It has continued very cold in the west with snow in some southern sections of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Forecasts. Southeastern winds, milder with light snow falls. Friday—Comparatively mild at first then turning much colder again.

W. V. CORY, Minister of the Interior, authorized publication of this will not be paid for.

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