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peoples of an anxious world.

Then there is the question of time. For many reasons, it would be unfortunate were the Conference to be unduly prolonged. It is certainly our duty to see that our work is done thoroughly. It is of almost equal importance that it be done quickly.

Were the Council of Foreign Ministers to meet, during the Conference, in the way I have suggested, it would require no change in the formal position. The final stage provided for under the Moscow Agreement would still take place, and the Foreign Ministers would convene for the purpose of approving the final draft treaties. But, if there is merit in this proposal, they would, I believe, find at that time, that many problems of the final stage had been resolved.

Indeed, it might not be too much to hope that final agreement would rapidly ensue. Furthermore, this course would have the advantage of emphasizing our common partnership in the making of peace.

Too great significance cannot be attached to the present Conference. If for no reason other than that it is the first of the conferences concerned with the treaties of peace, it must pave the way for future conferences. If it succeeds, the success of future conferences will be commensurately ensured. Should it fail, what hope would be left of future success in the making of peace?

If we succeed, we shall lighten Humanity's load as it seeks to be relieved of its heaviest burdens. To lighten a man's spirit by giving him fresh hope is to increase his strength and his ability to pursue his way. It is the same with nations as with men. To fail to bring this conference to a successful conclusion, or to prolong it indefinitely, would be to discourage the nations, and to hold them back in their onward march.

I would be untrue to my deepest convictions were I not to give to this gathering of nations, a statement of the magnitude of the task with which, as I see it, our world is faced today. Fortunately, for what I have to say, I have high scientific authority. Ours is an age in which there has been much of scientific progress, and in which great store is placed upon scientific discovery. High honour is paid to Science itself.

Of her many contributions to the advancement of Science, and to the betterment of the human race, France has