

Mr. Hurst said that he had urged this upon his colleagues of the Drafting Committee, and when they would not agree he had asked them to put the point to their political chiefs, who might quite properly give them instructions which would bring about the desired result. The United States representative, however, had declined.

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1(f) ARMY OF OCCUPATION: GUARANTEE TO FRANCE
IN EVENT OF GERMAN AGGRESSION

Mr. Lloyd George said that in connection with the articles in the Peace Treaty providing for the Army of Occupation, it had been necessary, in order to satisfy the French, to endeavour to reach an arrangement guaranteeing France against a further attack from Germany. After consultation with colleagues of his own Government, he was prepared to accept the responsibility of recommending to the House of Commons that Great Britain should say to France that, if she were wantonly attacked by Germany, Great Britain would come to her rescue. President Wilson had agreed to a similar guarantee, but, of course, he would be obliged to submit it to the United States Senate. The guarantee was for a period of fifteen years, co-terminous with the period during which the Army of Occupation would exist. He was apprehensive lest the United States Senate might refuse the guarantee. A clause had been added providing for reconsideration of the length of the period of occupation. The guarantee would take the form of a supplementary treaty outside the Peace Treaty.

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Sir Robert Borden said that, so far as Canada was concerned, it was difficult at this moment to say what the effect of a proposal of this kind would be. He feared that Canadians would be reluctant to accept such a commitment.

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132. *Le Premier ministre au Premier ministre par intérim*

TELEGRAM X. 296

Paris, May 5, 1919

MOST SECRET. United States has signed an engagement to enter into a treaty with France to the following effect. Begins. First. Any violation by Germany of the engagements taken by her according to Articles forbidding fortifications or armed forces within fifty kilometers of Rhine to be regarded as an hostile act against the signatories to the Treaty and as calculated to disturb the peace of the world. Second. A pledge to be taken by the United States of America to come immediately to the assistance of France as soon as any unprovoked movement of aggression against her is made by Germany. Third. This pledge to be subject to the approval of the Executive Council of the League of Nations and to continue until it is agreed by the contracting powers that the League itself affords sufficient protection. Ends. We were also informed that Lloyd George has undertaken to give the same engagement on behalf of Great Britain and the Dominions are asked to enter into