

to consider the Treaty as a whole would be held on Tuesday afternoon at three o'clock, and that the Treaty would be presented to the Germans on Wednesday afternoon at three o'clock in the Palais Trianon at Versailles.

3. The Plenary Conference met in secret session on Tuesday afternoon [May 6] at the hour mentioned. The proceedings were largely formal. A copy of the official report is appended hereto for reference.<sup>1</sup> M. Tardieu<sup>2</sup> one of the French delegates, read the summary of the Treaty which was somewhat fuller than that presented to us on the previous evening. We had been promised a copy of this summary which was to reach us on Tuesday morning, but in the late hours of Monday evening there was some disturbance as to an alleged alteration of one of the Articles of the Treaty, and the printing was stopped for some time. After translation of M. Tardieu's observations had proceeded for some time at the session of the Conference, we finally agreed that he might proceed without translation in order to save time. The Chinese delegates made reservations with regard to the disposition of Kiao-Chow. Honduras called attention to some memorandum which it had filed. Signor Crespi<sup>3</sup> made reservations on behalf of Italy, and the Portuguese delegate made a most impassioned address, lasting for more than half an hour, during the greater portion of which he was shrieking at the top of his voice and gesticulating in a fashion which would have made any utterance wholly unnecessary. Towards the end of the session, Marshal Foch arose, although he had no credentials as a delegate and, strictly speaking, had no right to be heard. He took a course which would have been wholly impossible on the part of a British military officer however high his rank. His speech, which was delivered with considerable emotion, was virtually an attack upon the military arrangements proposed in the Treaty of Peace which he described as wholly inadequate and as exposing France to the greatest peril from future German aggression. He was listened to with profound attention and at the conclusion of his speech, which was not translated, M. Clemenceau declared the session closed. Clemenceau called Foch to him afterwards and there was a somewhat animated conversation. There are those, however, who are sufficiently suspicious to believe that Clemenceau knew perfectly well what Foch intended to do and that this demonstration was merely a manoeuvre on the part of the French Government. It should be added that M. Tardieu, at the close of his exposition of the Peace Treaty, read the undertaking of Great Britain and of the United States to safeguard France against unprovoked aggression on the part of Germany. Up to the present time the Dominions have not been asked to commit themselves formally to any such undertaking, although Mr. Lloyd George stated at the meeting on Monday afternoon that he believed Clemenceau would require it.

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<sup>1</sup>Not printed.

<sup>2</sup>High Commissioner of France to the United States, 1917-1919; Minister of Liberated Regions, 1919-1920; Plenipotentiary of France at the Peace Conference.

<sup>3</sup>Minister of Supply for Italy; Adviser on Economic and Financial Questions of the Italian Delegation at the Peace Conference.