

2. Opium Convention. The British and American drafts were referred to the Drafting Committee.

3. The British and American drafts respecting the Belgian Treaties of 1839 were disposed of in the same way.

4. Recognition of British Protectorate over Egypt. Mr. Lansing desired that this, as well as the clauses relating to Morocco, should be absorbed in a general clause dealing with the renunciation of Germany's territorial claims outside of Europe. He told me privately that his attitude was to some extent based on the desire to bring in effectively, the Shantung question. I pointed out the impracticability of including the clauses relating to Egypt and Morocco in a general clause; and I pressed strongly for the acceptance of the British proposal. Lansing stated he had no objection to it in principle. Finally I accepted the proposal of a reference to the Drafting Committee, provided Lansing would agree that such portion of the clauses as could not be effectively included in the general clause should be accepted. I reserved my right to press for the acceptance of the British Clause on Thursday the 17th and to refer the question to the Council of Four if it should not then be accepted.

5. The Morocco question was disposed of in the same way and for the same reasons.

6. The less important of the two British proposals was accepted. Mr. Lansing objected strongly to the main proposal which required Germany to put the Allied Governments in effective possession of all chemical processes employed in the production of poison gases, etc. The Americans and Italians strongly opposed it. The British proposal seems very comprehensive and would, if effectively carried out, result in the disclosure of German commercial secrets. I argued that if such secrets were employed for the destruction of human life by barbarous means during the war, Germany could not complain if their disclosure was compelled. No progress being possible I reserved the question for the Council of Four.

7. Prize Court Decisions. The British proposal validates all decrees and orders made by Prize Courts in any of the Allied and Associated Powers. Lansing proposed a somewhat elaborate amendment which empowers the Five Allied and Associated Powers to examine all decisions and orders of German Prize Courts and to modify them. His proposal is not practicable in its present form as it does not set forth the means by which it shall be carried out or the principle on which any such revision could be effected. It is highly probable that upon the principles in force in the German Prize Courts, the decisions were right. If they are to be revised, upon what principle are we to proceed. Possibly the Drafting Committee will solve the difficulty.

Yours faithfully,

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