

into practice. And, notwithstanding the fact that there were signs of fundamental differences in the points of view of the United States and Argentina to which recent events have given added significance, the Conference was able to set up a consultative system that has not been without value in the present war.

The Convention for the Maintenance, Preservation and Re-establishment of Peace, popularly known as the Consultative Pact, provided for consultation between them "in the event that the peace of the American republics is menaced". As a matter of fact three such consultative conferences have been held: namely the Panama, Havana and Rio de Janeiro Meetings of American Foreign Ministers. The work of these conferences will be discussed later.

This Consultative Pact has been interpreted as a "Pan Americanization" of the Monroe Doctrine; for, in becoming a party to the Pact, the United States abandoned its traditional role of sole guardian of the Doctrine. The Pact contemplated two possibilities: a war between American countries, like the Chaco War, and a war outside America that might menace American peace. In so far as it related to inter-American wars, the Pact was supported by another convention known as the Convention to Coordinate, Extend and Assure the Fulfilment of the Existing Treaties between the American States. In this convention, the signatories reaffirmed their existing undertakings to settle their disputes by peaceful means. They agreed, moreover, that the disputants would not engage in hostilities or take any military action whatsoever during the consultation contemplated by the Consultative Pact and for a period of six months thereafter. If hostilities nevertheless broke out, then the other republics agreed to consult again and to adopt "in their character as neutrals a common and solidary attitude."

Other conventions adopted by the Buenos Aires Peace Conference were the Additional Protocol relative to Non-intervention, the Treaty on the Prevention of Controversies, the Inter-American Treaty on Good Offices and Mediation, a convention on the Pan American Highway, and a series of conventions on intellectual co-operation.

The Conference also adopted 62 resolutions and recommendations. One of these resolutions may have some importance for Canada. At the Montevideo Conference, the Pan American Union had been requested to study the advisability of allowing non-member States to adhere to Pan American conventions. The report of the Governing Board, which was presented to the Buenos Aires Conference, was against allowing this practice unless the contrary were indicated in the instrument. The Conference agreed that conventions should be "closed" unless the contrary were stipulated; but the resolution goes on to say that Pan American conventions will nevertheless be open to "the accession or adherence of American States which may not have signed them." The door was thus left open for adherences by Canada which is the only American State which is not a member of the Union. So far, however, Canada has not taken advantage of the resolution.

LIMA CONFERENCE (1938)

The last of the regular conferences to date was the Eighth or Lima Conference which met at the end of 1938. By this time, the seriousness of the general international situation, which had been perceptible to some in 1936, was evident to all. Like the Washington Conference of 1889, the Lima Conference adopted no conventions; but it adopted 112 resolutions, including some very important ones.

The most important, undoubtedly, was the Declaration of Lima which established machinery for the consultations contemplated by the Buenos Aires Consultative Pact, it being decided that these consultations would take the form of meetings of foreign ministers. Within less than a year the first of these meetings was to take place. The Declaration also extended the principle of consultation to other than security questions.

It was presumably in virtue of this provision that Argentina