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menace the security of nations in the recent past, and have been more or less behind the scenes ever since. In too many directions the parallels between conditions as they were some years ago, and as we know them today, are becoming all too apparent.

It is, I believe, not too much to say that the present meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers in London is of greater importance to the world than the combined conferences and meetings which have been held since the termination of hostilities. If it becomes apparent at the meetings of the council that on the part of all the powers there represented good-will rather than ill-will is to be the path along which the problems before the council are to be solved, all will be well. If, however, the contrary should be the case, and more in the way of frustration be experienced, I believe it is difficult to say to what pass matters might come at any moment.

It is clear that, in her present distress, Western Europe is looking to America with a hope only second to that which she manifested during the years of war. The immediate aid already largely assured under the Marshall Plan may