

The Working Group met in long sessions on January 10th and 11th. The purpose of these meetings has been to examine the draft Articles one by one and to extract questions arising out of each in the light of instructions received from Governments. All representatives had instructions except the Belgians. While the Dutch had received theirs, they included an instruction to consult with the Belgians on their instructions. Neither the Dutch nor the Belgians, therefore, were able to express any very firm views on the important points even on the working level. An Ambassadors' meeting has been set for Friday next at 3:00 o'clock.

I shall take up the draft Articles one by one below and give you a brief outline of questions which arose in connection with each.

Article 1

A slight revision was made in this Article to make its language conform exactly with that of the Charter. In place of the present wording, please now read after "in such a manner" the words "that international peace and security, etc."

Article 2

The French suggested deleting the words "to the greatest possible extent". Our representatives said that they could not agree with this deletion. We made the point that while we had not at all in mind the setting up of new and complicated international cultural, economic and social organizations, we believed that the Article would be rather worse than useless if it did not provide for the possibility of breaking new ground in these fields. We repeated, as we have said on so many other occasions, that the Canadian Government attached high importance to the inclusion of a strong Article to give the Treaty a positive slant in other fields than strictly military. Other representatives agreed with us, but the French reserved their position which was apparently all they could do on the working level in view of their instructions.

Article 3

A United Kingdom amendment was proposed and accepted combined with a suggestion from us. The first phrases of the draft now should read:

"In order more effectively to achieve the objectives of this Treaty, the parties will use every endeavour, separately and jointly..."

Article 4

The Americans, on re-examination of this draft Article, took strong exception to paragraph (b) in that it is so broad that it might be interpreted as substituting consultation between the parties for the work of the Security Council. We suggested that the division between (a) and (b) should be done away with, and that the Article should read:

"...opinion of any of them the territorial integrity, political independence, or security of any of the parties is endangered by any situation which may constitute a threat to or a breach of the peace."

This text was tentatively accepted but the Americans wished to give it a little more thought. They would agree to ending the Article after the word "endangered".