

without the consent of the allied Powers would be considered an act of war. Other difficulties of detail should not prove more insoluble. If such an alliance of all the Powers of Europe is not to become an instrument for doubtful intrigues of diplomatists acting in secret, the engagements and deliberations of the Powers should be public, and secret arrangements between two or more individual members should be regarded as a violation of the international compact and of the new comity of nations. Moreover, it is by the publicity of the deliberations of the new council of the nations that we may hope to excite in the public itself sufficient interest in international relations to insure its gradual education in these matters and the improvement of its sense of responsibility for the immense issues that are involved.

One further proviso might be necessary: that there should be no transfer of territory from one Government to another without the consent of the population of that territory secured by as sound a means as international guarantees can insure. This principle of itself might go far to prevent wars of aggression: it would serve little purpose to fight a war of conquest if after the successful prosecution of the war it were necessary to submit the fate of the coveted territory to its inhabitants, a decision which may render the results of the war nugatory.

This, then, should be broadly the programme for the accomplishment of which British influence might work: the enlargement of our present alliance engagements so as to include all the combatants in this war, the purpose of such alliance being to throw against any one member of the group guilty of aggression the weight of

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