

wisdom is exercised, may sooner or later menace anew the well-being of mankind. I am, I trust, not an alarmist, but I have seen hidden forces 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 enable her peoples to face again the hardships of another winter. The promise of continued assistance toward recovery will help to serve the larger need. Without aid, however, such have conditions become that the people may despair. The impression above all which one gains, at this time, is that this is indeed one world, and that if nations are to save themselves from the appalling consequences of continuous discontent, their salvation will only be found in the salvation of other nations. The hope for the world of today lies in closer and more effective co-operation among all free nations to ensure the preservation of freedom itself."