(Continued from Page 6).

"It is necessary, however, to indicate most clearly that the proposals of the Russian delegation could be realized only in case all the powers participating in the war obligate themselves scrupulously to adhere to the terms in common with all peoples.

Fear One-Sided Agreement.

"The powers of the Quadruple Alliance now negotiating with Russia cannot, of course, one-sidedly bind themselves to such terms, not having the guarantee that Russia's allies will recognize and carry out these terms honestly without reservation with regard to the Quadruple Alliance. Starting upon these principles, and regarding the six clauses proposed by the Russian delegation as a basis of negotiations, the following must be stated.

#### No Forcible Annexation.

"Clause 1—Forcible annexations of territories seized during the war does not enter the intentions of the allied powers. About troops now occupying seized territories, it must be stipulated in the peace treaty, if there is no agreement before, regarding the evacuation of these places.

"Clause 2—It is not the intention of the allies to deprive the political independence of those nations which lost it during the war.

### Rights of Minorities.

"Clause 3—The question of subjection to that or the other country of those nationalities who have not political independence, cannot, in the opinion of the powers of the Quadruple Alliance, be solved internationally. In this case it must be solved by each Government, together with its peoples, in a manner established by the constitution.

"Clause 4—Likewise, in accordance with the declarations of the statesmen of the Quadruple Alliance the protection of the rights of minorities constitutes an essential part of the right of peoples to self-definition, indicated by a constitution.

## Division of Damages.

"Claus 5-The Governments of the (Teutonic) Allies also recognize (This refers to this principle. Clause 5 of the Russian peace terms, stipulating that no belligerent country shall be required to pay contributions and that private persons shall be compensated for losses incurred through the war from a special fund contributed by all the belligerents on a proportional basis.) There is a material possibility of mutual refusal not only to refund war expenditures, but also to pay for damages caused by the war. In this event each belligerent would be required to bear only the expense of its subjects made war prisoners, and to pay for damages caused to civil subjects of an adversary by deliberate violations of international law. The creation of a special fund for this purpose, as suggested by the Russian Government, can be discussed only in case other belligerents join in peace negotiations before the expiration of a certain time.

#### Return of Colonies.

"Clause 6—Of the four allied powers, Germany alone possesses colonies. On the part of the German delegation, in full accord with the Russian proposals regarding that, the following is declared:

"The return of colonial territories forcibly seized during the war constitutes an essential part of German demands, which Germany cannot renounce under any circumstances. standing the greatest difficulties and the improbability of victory in a struggle against an adversary many times stronger, and who had the advantage of unlimited import by sea, remained in the gravest circumstances faithful to their German friends, may serve as proof of their attachment and their resolve by all means to preserve allegiance to Germany-proof which by its significance and weight is far superior to any expression of popular

"The principles of economic relations proposed by the Russian delegation in connection with the above six clauses are approved wholly by the delegations of the small allied powers, who always have denied any economic restrictions and who see in the re-establishment of regulated economic relations, which are in accord with the interests of all peoples concerned, one of the most important conditions for bringing about friendly relations between the powers now engaged in war."

#### Russian Reply.

Chairman Ioffe, of the Russian delegation, expressed gratification at the willingness of Germany to conclude peace o nthe basis of no annexations, no indemnities and the self-definition of peoples, but pointed out that the self-definition of peoples within the limits granted by constitutions, as stated by the German reply, was not complete.

"Renouncing the application of the right of the stronger nation with regard to territories occupied during the war," he said, "the powers of the Quadruple Alliance at the same time give all their opponents an immediate Likewise, the Russian demand for immediate evacuation of territories occupied by an adversary conforms to German intentions. Having in view the nature of the colonial territories of Germany, the realization of the right of self-determination, beside the above outlined considerations, in the form proposed by the Russian delegation, is at present practically

## Proof of Native Attachment.

"The circumstance that in the German colonies the natives, notwith-peace ground. They affirm that the right of the stronger, after unprecedented bloodshed, shall be preserved

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with all its integrity within each of the countries with no regard for little and oppressed nationalities.

"The war cannot end without the violated rights of those nationalities being re-established. The Russian delegation insists that those nationalities must in the very next peace treaty establishing a general peace among all nationalities receive, on the basis of international agreement, guarantees that their lawful rights will be protected. The lapse of time in no case legalizes the violation of one people by another."

## Contsrued as an Indemnity.

Regarding compensation for the maintenance of prisoners of war, the Russian chairman said it might be construed as an indemnity. He insisted that an international fund be used to pay damages against private persons. He had no objection to Germany's request that he colonies, be evacuated by Entente troops.

Russia's delegation, he stated, in conclusion, notwithstanding difficulties of opinion, thought that the German declaration that Germany had no aggressive plans, offered the possibility of the immediate beginning of negotiations for a general peace among all belligerents. He proposed

a ten days' recess until January 4, "so that the people whose Governments have not yet joined in the negotiations for a general peace, may have an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the principles of such a peace as now is being established."

## To Resume Negotiations.

"At the expiration of the indicated time," he declared, "the negotiations must be resumed, disregarding whether or not other belligerents have joined in the negotiations or how many."

The next session of the conference was set for December 266.

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