

Council should be so defined as to accord with the development of constitutional relations from time to time. In other words the scheme of representation must be made so elastic as to conform at every stage with constitutional development.

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Paris, January 18, 1919

1. This memorandum covers the period from the afternoon of Wednesday 15th January to the afternoon of Saturday 18th January.

2. Sir George Foster, Hon. Mr. Sifton and Mr. Doherty arrived in Paris on the evening of Thursday 16th January.

3. The conversations between the five Allied Powers, each represented by two delegates, have continued throughout the week, and the procedure to be adopted at sessions of the Conferences was finally settled on the afternoon of Friday [January 17]. A copy of the printed regulations thus settled will be forwarded as soon as it is available.

4. There has been a tremendous pressure from the press of all the Allied Powers for admission to the sessions of the Conferences (i.e. the smaller Conference in which only the five Great Powers are represented and the larger Conference in which all the nations are represented). It was realized that this would lead to greatly protracted sessions, to premature public controversy and to the intensifying of differences which are sufficiently difficult and delicate even when the discussion is conducted within the confidence of the Conference Chamber and without any publicity before conclusions are reached. Finally a full statement of the reasons for denying admission to the press was approved by the Conference of the five Allied Powers and was made public. The conclusions which it embodies are as follows:—First, that publicity for the preliminary conversations now proceeding must be subject to the limitations necessarily imposed by the difficult and delicate nature of the task. Second, that representatives of the press shall be admitted to the meetings of the full Conference (i.e., the Conference at which representatives of all the nations are present), but upon necessary occasions the deliberations of the Conference must be held in camera.

5. With respect to the representation of the British Empire upon the Council of the proposed League of Nations, Sir Robert Borden and Mr. Doherty had a conference this morning [January 18] with the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Lionel Curtis, and they agreed to accept a resolution for submission to the Imperial War Cabinet to the effect that representatives of the British Empire should be selected by the Imperial War Cabinet or the Imperial War Conference until the holding of the Constitutional Conference to define the relations between the United Kingdom and the Dominions, which was provided for by resolution of the Imperial War Conference in