

5. As regards the text of Article 2 no appreciable difference is found between the American and French proposal. His Majesty's Government are therefore content to accept the former if, as they understand to be the case, a dispute "among the high contracting parties" is a phrase wide enough to cover a dispute between any two of them.

6. The French note suggests the addition of an article providing that violation of the Treaty by one of the parties should release the remainder from their obligations under the Treaty towards that party. His Majesty's Government are not satisfied that if the Treaty stood alone, the addition of some such provision would not be necessary. Mr. Kellogg's speech, however, shows that he put forward for acceptance the text of the proposed Treaty upon the understanding that violation of the undertaking by one party would free the remaining parties from the obligation of observing its terms in respect of the treaty-breaking State.

7. If it is agreed that this is the principle which will apply in the case of this particular Treaty, His Majesty's Government are satisfied and will not ask for the insertion of an amendment. Means can no doubt be found without difficulty of placing this understanding on record in some appropriate manner so that it may have equal value with the terms of the Treaty itself.

8. The point is one of importance because of its bearing on the treaty engagements by which His Majesty's Government are already bound. The preservation of peace has been the chief concern of His Majesty's Government and the prime object of all their endeavours. It is the reason why they have given ungrudging support to the League of Nations, and why they have undertaken the burden of guarantee embodied in the Locarno Treaty. The sole object of all these engagements is the elimination of war as an instrument of national policy just as it is the purpose of the peace pact now proposed. It is because the object of both is the same that there is no real antagonism between the treaty engagements which His Majesty's Government have already accepted and the pact which is now proposed. The machinery of the Covenant and of the Treaty of Locarno, however, go somewhat further than a renunciation of war as a policy in that they provide certain sanctions for a breach of their obligations. A clash might thus conceivably arise between existing treaties and the proposed pact unless it is understood the obligations of the new engagement will cease to operate in respect of a party which breaks its pledges and adopts hostile measures against one of its co-contractants.

9. For the Government of this country, respect for the obligations arising out of the Covenant of the League of Nations and out of the Locarno treaties is fundamental. Our position in this regard is identical with that of the German Government as to any new treaty which would weaken or undermine these engagements on which the peace of Europe rests. Indeed, public interest in this country in scrupulous fulfilment of these engagements is so great that His Majesty's Government would, for their part, prefer to see some such provision as Article 4 of the French draft embodied in the text of the treaty. To this we understand there will be no objection. Mr. Kellogg has made it clear in the speech to which I have drawn attention that he had no intention by the terms of the new treaty of preventing parties to the Covenant of the League or to the Locarno Treaty from fulfilling their obligations.

10. The language of Article I as to the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy renders it desirable that I should remind Your Excellency that there are certain regions of the world the welfare and integrity of which constitute a special and vital interest for our peace and safety. His Majesty's Government have been at pains to make it clear in the past that interference with these regions cannot be suffered. Their protection against attack is to the British Empire a measure of self-defense. It must be clearly understood that His Majesty's Government in Great Britain accept the new