

In order to obviate any possibility that unanimity would apply to decisions by teams or committees, we think that it should be made clear that “conclusions and recommendations” are those of the Commission, and are suggesting ways in which this might be done.

Co-Chairmen

3. Here also, there are two substantive changes:

(a) *Conference Declaration*

In your telegram Y-629 of November 21,† you coupled acceptance by the Soviet delegation of an amendment to this article “requiring the Commission to report violations or threats of violations of specific sub-articles of the neutrality declaration” to your acceptance of the revised draft article on investigations. The proposal is to achieve this object by an insertion requiring the Commission to report “any important information which may assist them (the Co-Chairmen) in their functions” – functions which already include supervision over the observance of the neutrality declaration. While we would not agree with Harriman that this is better than a reference to specific sub-articles, it does appear to give the Commission the substance of what we want.

(b) *Laotian Declaration*

The Co-Chairmen would be required to supervise the observance of the 13-power declaration of respect for Laotian neutrality but not (at least by the agreement) the Laotian Government’s declaration of neutrality. Since the latter declaration will be embodied in the former, this appears to be a change without a real difference.

Teams

In your telegram Y-627 of November 18,† you said that if the phrase “the places to which the Commission and its teams shall go” or words of equal purport were not accepted by the Soviet delegation, you reserved the right to re-introduce the question of a separate article on freedom of access and movement. Pushkin has now proposed the words “the places where they go for investigation.” The purport appears to be the same, and the formula seems to us, as to the Western delegations, to meet our requirements.

5. I attach for your signature, if you agree, a telegram instructing Ronning to press for changes in the article on voting and authorizing him to accept the changes suggested in the articles on the role of the Co-Chairmen and on teams.²⁸

N.A. R[OBERTSON]

²⁸ Note marginale :/Marginal note:
Signed as amended by SSEA, & sent Y-644 13:30 27/11. R. C[ampbell]