

C202980 JAG/JG
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NOTES for possible statement in HOUSE OF COMMONS.

1) The Peace Conference at Paris

anxious not to make any statement at the moment which would add to difficulties confronting representations of 21 Powers now seeking to determine treaties of peace with 5 ex-enemy states

recall that conference has LIMITED terms of reference so far as the 17 powers other than the Big 4 are concerned; i.e.

there was a measure of preliminary agreement among the Big 4 on some main provisions of the five treaties; BUT

even after the Paris Conference as such reaches stage of agreement on the 5 draft treaties,

it still rests with the Big 4 to draft the final treaties which will be open for signature by representatives of all 21 nations;

the process of reaching this stage of agreement may therefore be a lengthy one.

In these circumstances there would appear to be considerable point behind the two principal Canadian suggestions:

- a) that the Big 4 should themselves meet during the Conference sessions to consider the agreed recommendations of the Conference

thereby saving time in the eventual drafting of final documents

(announced August 29 that the Big 4 were meeting; August 30 that Big 4 would stand by agreements previously reached among themselves, but that they would be free to vote as they pleased in further consideration of points on which they had not reached agreement)

- b) that the Big 4 should state publicly what exactly the measure of agreement among them is

(this presumably has been covered by announcement of August 30, and should result in a general speeding-up of business).

It goes without saying that many delicate and difficult problems