

those basic conditions of mutual understanding necessary for the establishment of a collective European peace system. To this end the first Conference of the Locarno Powers after that disturbing event suggested a demilitarised zone occupied by international police. Herr Hitler offered to delay the full fortification of Germany's Western frontier for three months. The British Government, acting as mediator-in-chief, addressed a questionnaire to Berlin. The months have passed, but the international force has not materialised. Herr Hitler's time limit has expired. Mr. Eden's questionnaire remains unanswered. Months of inactivity, but gradually the hard words with which the Rhineland *coup* was met have died away and a new opportunity for rebuilding has arisen from the London meeting of the representatives of Britain, France and Belgium. Having reaped the bitter harvest of a dictated peace, they were careful to avoid any suggestion of dictation in their proposals for the new European settlement. This point was emphasised in the communiqué issued after the meeting. "Such a settlement," it read, "can only be achieved by the free co-operation of all the powers concerned, and nothing would be more fatal to the hopes of such a settlement than the division, apparent or real, of Europe into opposing blocks." The outcome of the Conference was a decision to invite Germany and Italy—the other signatories of Locarno—to a Five Power Conference, the first business of which would be to negotiate a new arrangement to take the place of the Locarno Pact. Whatever the outcome of this invitation—and it has since been accepted by Italy "in principle" and by Germany—there no longer seems to be any justification for the accusation so often bandied about that France thinks solely in terms of her own security. Had this been the case, she would have been content to rely on the old Locarno guarantees—guarantees which have now been buttressed by military conversations between the British, French and Belgian chiefs of staff. She has realised that such one-sided arrangements, which leave Germany outside, savour too much of the old pre-war military alliances which are bound eventually to be met by counter alliances and to lead to a precarious balance of power.

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### The Indivisible Peace

**B**UT in giving priority on the agenda to a new Western Locarno, the Powers have avoided the suggestion that this was their only concern. Clearly the peace of Europe is indivisible. As Mr. Eden said in the House of Commons on July 27th, "It was not simply an Austrian quarrel which involved us (Britain) in war in 1914; it was an Austrian quarrel which became an invasion of Belgium. . . . Is there indeed a conflict in Europe that can be localised? If the flames are lit, will they not spread and is not, therefore, the peace of all Europe the concern of all Europe?" The communiqué therefore quite logically adds that: "If progress can be made at this meeting (of the Five Powers), other matters affecting European peace will necessarily come under discussion. In such circumstances it would be natural to look forward to the widening of the area of the discussion in such a manner as to facilitate, with the collaboration of the other interested Powers, the settlement of those problems the solution of which is essential to the peace of Europe."

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### The Austro-German Agreement

**F**EW international incidents during the last few years have provoked less hostile comment than the Austro-German Agreement. True the anti-Fascist Press spoke of it as a step

towards the *Anschluss*, and those incapable of thinking in any terms save those of power politics and military alliances read into it a sinister Italo-German *rapprochement*. Those exultant pessimists who have regarded Austria as a point of Italo-German friction likely at any time to lead to a devastating European war, are now holding up their hands in horror because this danger has been removed. Whatever the innuendoes and the fears expressed with regard to Germany's ultimate intentions, this pact is surely the outcome of the common sense of peoples enjoying a common language and, a great extent, a common culture. The agreement itself is based on "the fundamental idea that Austria recognises herself as a German State." In return, "the German Reich Government recognises the full sovereignty of the Federal States of Austria." Moreover, they recognise that "the inner political developments existing in Austria, including the question of Austrian National Socialism, is an internal affair in which they will not interfere either directly or indirectly." On its constructive side, the agreement certainly paves the way for the economic rehabilitation of Austria and for the stabilisation and pacification of Central Europe—a region which was fast becoming a cockpit of future conflict. The fears of Austria being seized by force of arms are receding into the background. The heightened apprehensions aroused in Czecho-Slovakia and other Danubian States will recede directly in proportion to the amount of security which the League has to offer them. At the moment, with the fate of Abyssinia uppermost in their minds, it is not surprising that they take a short-sighted view and seek protectors whose forces are at least organised, if not overwhelming. When the member States of the League realise that by pooling their armaments they can achieve an organised preponderance of force at the disposal of law, then and not until then, will Europe enjoy that security and confidence necessary for her development and progress.

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### World Youth Peace Conference

**T**HE NEW COMMONWEALTH is essentially a young movement. Founded but four short years ago, our Society is the first great attempt to organise and to canalise that ever-growing public opinion which seeks to establish the reign of law among nations by the provision of machinery for the peaceful settlement of international disputes, for the removal of international grievances in conformity with the principles of equity and justice and for the centralisation of armed force and its dedication solely to the service of law and right. We refuse to be bound and blinded by outworn shibboleths and dogmas of national sovereignty or to quiver with palsied fear at the mention of the boggy of the super-state. Our objective is Justice—the only conceivable foundation for peace. In our campaign, we appeal for the co-operation of the Youth of all parties and all nations. This month we publish professions of faith in our ideals and in our programme by six young men—an internationalist, a Frenchman, a Dutchman, a Conservative, a Socialist and a Liberal, each one of whom may be considered to be representative of the younger generation in his own country or party. They have taken up the challenge thrown out by Mr. Baldwin when he said in the House of Commons: "What about the younger men? It is they who will have to fight, and it is they who will have to fight out this bloody issue of war. It is really for them to decide." The World Youth Peace Conference at Geneva in September provides the opportunity for discussion and decision. If this journal is able to assist them in their task of designing and building the warless world, it will have achieved its purpose.