

proposed went beyond a mere question of drafting, and accordingly they were circulated to the members of the Commission on the League of Nations. It is understood that the American representatives assented to the suggested amendments and that in the absence of objection from representatives of any other power these changes will be adopted by the Drafting Committee at its meeting today [April 26].<sup>1</sup>

5. The nine points respecting labour conditions which were proposed for insertion in the Treaty of Peace, and to which Mr. Barnes unfortunately gave his adhesion without consulting any of the Dominions representatives, have been a subject of continual and irritating discussion.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Balfour's re-draft was modified in one important respect at a meeting of the British Delegations on Saturday last [April 19]. The Belgians, Italians and Americans have not hitherto given their assent to the amendments thus proposed. Finally Mr. Barnes has retired from the field and at Mr. Balfour's request Sir Robert Borden has taken up the matter with Mr. Vandervelde, one of the Belgian plenipotentiaries, and with Colonel House. Interviews have been held without a final decision; and a further meeting between Sir Robert Borden and the Belgian and the American representatives is to be held on Sunday morning. Copy of the original nine points as assented to by Mr. Barnes has already been forwarded. Herewith are sent:

- (a) Copy of Mr. Balfour's proposal as amended in the British Delegations;<sup>3</sup>
- (b) Copy of Mr. Vandervelde's proposals;<sup>3</sup>
- (c) Copy of the American proposals.<sup>3</sup>

Sir Robert Borden is confident that a satisfactory conclusion will be reached, although the absence of Mr. Hughes in London makes it difficult to deal with the question in an absolutely final manner before his return on Sunday evening.

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7. A letter from Lord Robert Cecil as to more direct representation of Canada in connection with the Supreme Economic Council has also been received, and it is proposed to appoint Dr. Robertson to a position of greater influence and authority in connection with the Supreme Economic Council. The proposal will be submitted by cable for the consideration of Council.

### *Number 19*

Paris, May 3, 1919

1. This memorandum covers the period from Saturday evening, 26th April, to Saturday evening, 3rd May.

<sup>1</sup>See Documents 112-115, 117.

<sup>2</sup>For final text of the "Nine Points" see enclosure to Document 119.

<sup>3</sup>Not printed.