

command. This the President is expected to make clear without delay. The German reservation that nothing be done that would be irreconcilable with German honor probably will be put up to Marshal Foch. The President is not going to be placed in the false position of being a mediator between his allies and his enemies, no matter how hard Germany tries.

German Position Weaker.
The German answer did not cause great surprise here because it had been forecast. Whereas the expectation when the President's note was sent a week ago that Germany would resist its tone and stiffen her resistance for a while, developments of the last few days have indicated that conditions in Germany were such that acceptance of the terms was almost imperative.

Despite the fact that the language is involved and ambiguous and despite certain conditions which the German Government itself has injected into the question of evacuation and an armistice, the German answer is an acceptance, although an awkward one. With respect to the President's charges of inhuman actions on the part of Germany the German Government counsels by disputing the charges, but this does not involve contesting the principles contained in the communication.

In the President's last note to Germany, it is pointed out, distinct and separate references to the armistice proposal and the proposal for peace were made. On the more immediate question of evacuation and armistice the President said: "It must be clearly understood that the process of evacuation and the conditions of an armistice are matters which must be left to the judgment and advice of the military advisers of the Government of the United States and the allied Governments, and the President feels it his duty to say that no arrangement can be accepted by the Government of the United States which does not provide absolutely satisfactory safeguards for the maintenance of the present military supremacy of the armies of the United States and the allies in the field."

Wants Vain in Arrangements.
The German Government now replies "that the procedure of this evacuation and of the conditions of an armistice should be left to the judgment of the military advisers of the United States and the allies on both sides in the field has to form the basis for arrangements safeguarding and guaranteeing this standard."

Obviously this means that the German High Command must, according to the German Government, have an equal voice with the allied and American military advisers in arranging the terms of the evacuation and armistice and that the Entente and allied Governments must submit to German demands for safeguarding Germany's present military strength, just as Germany must submit to enemy demands safeguarding theirs. Otherwise there could be no possible arrangement for safeguarding and guaranteeing this standard of power on both sides.

In one sense this is a reiteration of the German suggestion for a mixed commission to arrange for the terms of evacuation and armistice. This commission is to be made up exclusively of military men. It is recalled that the German idea of a mixed commission was authoritatively described as "entirely unacceptable" by the allied military action as it is there is little reason to believe that such conditions would be accepted by Foch and Haig and Pershing.

"Standard" Difficult to Fix.
The question of the "actual standard of power on both sides" would be difficult to determine if the Allies were to agree to it. Gen. Pershing's army, for example, is not opposed by a force which has made its progress very slow for some days, and in his very last report Gen. Pershing speaks of the concentration of German divisions holding his troops at bay. Therefore the actual standard of power here is about equal for the present, at least in the eyes of military men.

The standard of power existing between Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig's forces and the opposing German forces appears to be roughly equal. The British, but here, too, it is difficult to gauge accurately because the Germans are now engaged in a strategic retreat which is admittedly being carried out in a masterful manner, but which by its very nature involves withdrawal before the allied forces.

Germans Can Hold Until Spring.
The consensus of General Staff officers is that Marshal Foch now has a certain margin of superiority over the enemy, but it is not contended that this superiority is decisive. The view is freely expressed that the Germans, when they fall back to prepared positions, will have sufficient strength to hold them until the first American reinforcements reach the battle line next spring.

With the added American main power and the tremendous increase in gun power coming from the United States, aid from increases in equipment, airplanes, etc., the military experts are emphatic in stating that the superiority will really be admitted by the Germans. But there is no information to show that it is really superior in any marked degree now.

If the allied military authorities virtually were to give Germany credit for an approximately equal military force the Germans themselves would perhaps remain more anxious than the Allies to arrange on such terms as could in no way cripple the fighting organization now held intact by the German High Command. All these questions have been suggested by more careful reading of Germany's answer, but with little thought that Marshal Foch and the allied Generals seriously consider these German conditions.

Anxious to Satisfy on Terms.
The important fact, however, which is not overlooked and which has assumed greater significance the more the answer has been studied, is that on the question of peace terms as distinguished from the terms proper to the German Government's paper at least apparently goes so far as to satisfy the President.

Officials here frankly admit there is no way of knowing whether the German Government is telling the truth in these statements. Only the future can establish that. It is conceivable that the war lords and imperialists might even find a way to escape the consequences of the overboard the moment their object of escaping the consequences of the war had been achieved.

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As to the denial that submarine lifeboats and their passengers are being sunk in the case of the British steamship Eaveaton, sunk in February of last year, and the Tycho, sunk in May last year. In both instances the lifeboats were being abandoned. The latest case was in June of this year, when a submarine ran down and sank with great loss of life the lifeboat from the Canadian hospital ship *Landovoy Castle*.

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