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PEACE OFFER IS MADE BY GERMAN EMPIRE

Von Bethmann-Hollweg, In a Speech Before the Reichstag, Announces the Teutons and Their Allies Have Taken Steps to Stop the War

(By Evening Herald Leased Wire.)

BERLIN, Dec. 12.—Germany and her allies today proposed to enter forthwith into peace negotiations. The Austrian, Turkish and Bulgarian governments are making similar proposals. These proposals also have been transmitted to the vatican.

The following announcement was given out today by the semi-official Overseas News agency:

The chancellor this morning received one after another the representatives of the United States of America, Spain and Switzerland; that is, of the states protecting German interests in hostile foreign countries. The chancellor transmitted to them a note and asked them to bring it to the attention of the hostile governments. The note will be read in the reichstag today by the chancellor. In the note the four allied (central) powers propose to enter forthwith on peace negotiations. The propositions which they will bring for such negotiations are, according to their firm belief, appropriate for the establishment of a lasting peace. The governments at Vienna, Constantinople and Sofia transmitted identical notes, and also communicated with the holy see and all neutral powers.

GERMANY READY FOR PEACE, THE CHANCELLOR ANNOUNCES

Berlin, Dec. 12.—(Via Wireless to Sayville).—Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech is reported by the Overseas News Agency as follows:

Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg today announced to the reichstag that Germany, together with her allies, "conscious of their responsibility before God, before their own nations, before humanity," had proposed this morning to the hostile powers to enter on peace negotiations.

Practically all the members of parliament answered the unexpected summons. The crowded house and thronged galleries listened in attentive silence when the chancellor rose for his speech.

The chancellor first outlined the extraordinary political situation, the achievements of the central powers, and then made an announcement which possibility may be the turning point in the war which, for more than two years has held the world under its spell. The chancellor said:

"The reichstag had not been adjourned for a long period, but fortunately it was left to the discretion of the president as to the day of the next meeting. This decision was caused by the hope that soon happy events in the field would be recorded, a hope fulfilled quicker, almost than expected. I shall be brief, for actions speak for themselves."

The chancellor said Rumania had entered the war in order to roll up the German positions in the east and those of Germany's allies. At the same time the grand offensive on the Somme had as its object to pierce the German western front and the renewed Italian attacks were intended to paralyze Austria-Hungary.

"The situation was serious," the chancellor continued, "but with God's help our troops shaped conditions so as to give us security which not only is complete but still more so than ever before. The western front stands. Not only does it stand, but in spite of the Rumanian condition it is fitted out with larger reserves of men and material than it had been formerly. The most effective precautions have been taken against all Italian diversions. And while on the Somme and on the Caron the drum fire resounded while the Russians launched troops against the eastern frontier of Transylvania. Field Marshal von Hindenburg captured the whole of western Wallachia and the hostile capital of Bucharest, leading with unparalleled genius the troops that, in competition with all the allies, made possible what hitherto was considered impossible.

"And Hindenburg does not rest. Military operations progress. By strokes of the sword at the same time firm foundations for our economic needs have been laid. Great stocks of grain, victuals, oil and other goods fell into our hands in Rumania. The transport has begun. In spite of scarcity, we could have lived on our own supplies, but now our safety is beyond question.

"To these great events on land, the chancellor continued, "heroic deeds of equal importance are added by our submarines. The spectre of famine, which our enemies intended to appear before us, now pursued them with ut mercy. When, after the terminating of the first year of the war, the emperor addressed the nation in a public appeal, he said: 'Having witnessed such great events my heart was filled with awe and determination.'

"Neither our emperor nor our nation ever changed their minds in this respect. Neither have they now. The genius and heroic acts of our leaders have fashioned these facts as firm as iron. If the enemy counted upon the weariness of his enemy then he was deceived."

The reichstag, by means of the national auxiliary war service law, helped to build a new offensive and defensive bulwark in the midst of the great struggle, the chancellor continued. "Behind the fighting army stands the national work, the gigantic force of the nation working for the common aim.

"The empire is not a besieged fortress, as our adversaries imagined, but one mighty and firmly disciplined camp with inexhaustible resources. There is the German empire which is firmly and faithfully united with its hearts in arms, who have been rested in battle under the Austro-Hungarian, Turkish and Bulgarian flags, not confused by aspirations. We progressed with firm decision and we will continue our progress, always ready to defend ourselves and fight for our nation's existence, for its free future and always ready to stretch out our hands for peace.

"Our strength has not made our ears deaf to our responsibility before God, before our own nation and before humanity. The declarations formerly made by us concerning our readiness for peace were evaded by our adversaries. Now we have advanced one step further in this direction.

"On August 1, 1914, the emperor had personally to take the gravest decision which ever fell to the lot of a German—the order for mobilization, which he was compelled to give as a result of the Russian mobilization. During these long and earnest years of the war the emperor has been moved by a single thought. How peace could be restored to safeguard Germany, after this struggle in which she has fought victoriously.

"Nobody can testify better to this than I, who bear the responsibility for all actions of the government. In a deep moral and religious sense of duty towards this nation beyond it, towards humanity, the emperor now considers that the moment has come for official action towards peace.

"His majesty, therefore, in complete harmony and in condition with our allies, decided to propose to the hostile powers to enter into peace negotiations. This morning I transmitted a note to this effect to all the hostile powers, through the representatives of those powers which are watching over our interests and rights in the hostile states. I asked the representatives of Spain, the United States and Switzerland to forward that note.

"The same procedure has been adopted today in Vienna, Constantinople and Sofia. Other neutral states and His Holiness the pope, have been similarly informed."

WASHINGTON WILL MAKE NO COMMENT AT PRESENT

Washington, Dec. 12.—News that Germany and her allies were about to enter on peace negotiations was immediately sent to President Wilson. Speaking for the president, Secretary Tumulty said he was deeply interested but could make no comment, at least until it was learned what reception the proposal received from the entente allies.

The state department received its first information of Germany's proposal through the Associated Press dispatches from which officials assumed that the offices of the neutrals addressed are asked only to transmit the proposals. This will be done so far as the United States is concerned, promptly on receipt of the official dispatches in Washington. They will be forwarded to all the entente countries where the United States represent the central powers diplomatically.

Whether the United States would accompany the transmission with any comment or suggestion, it was indicated, depends entirely upon the nature of the proposal and whether it is considered likely of consideration. If the offer is deemed one on which all sides might negotiate the United States probably would urge that it be taken up.

KAISER TELLS GENERALS TO KEEP ON FIGHTING

London, Dec. 12.—A Central News dispatch from Amsterdam says it is announced officially in Berlin that Emperor William has notified his commanding generals of Germany's peace offer and has informed them it is still uncertain whether the offer will be accepted. Until that uncertainty is ended, the message says, they are to fight.

The message is quoted as follows:

"Soldiers: In agreement with the sovereigns of my allies and with the consciousness of victory, I have made an offer of peace to the enemy. Whether it will be accepted is still uncertain.

"Until that moment arrives you will fight on."

Emperor William's order to his commanding generals was addressed also to "My navy, which, in the common fight, has loyally and effectively staked all its strength."

FRENCH JOURNALIST GIVES IDEAS OF PEACE MOVEMENT

Paris, Dec. 12.—Etienne Grosclaude, the French journalist, devotes a second article in the Petit Parisien on the impressions he received on his recent visit to the United States to the subject of "Abrupt Peace and the United States."

In recounting what he characterizes as the failure of German efforts to induce the American government to propose peace, M. Grosclaude reports the following incident as occurring during the visit of Cardinal Mercier, primate of Belgium, to Rome, at his meeting at the vatican with Cardinal Hartmann, archbishop of Cologne:

"As Cardinal Mercier was about to turn away," says the writer, "Cardinal Hartmann murmured to him: 'We will not speak of war,' to which Cardinal Mercier replied: 'We will not speak of peace.'"

M. Grosclaude reaches the conclusion that in America, all German efforts "to entangle the United States in premature peace proposals," will prove futile.

PROPOSAL IS NOT TAKEN SERIOUSLY IN LONDON

London, Dec. 12.—A general note of pessimism prevails in London. One prominent official expressed himself to the Associated Press today as being very skeptical that the proposed terms would offer even a basis for negotiation.

This official said, however, that the note was a dramatic coup which would create interesting developments in the diplomatic situation and provide the first official peace overtures of the war.

The offer lends the foreign office upset in the midst of a change of administration, but as the new foreign secretary, A. J. Balfour, has kept most closely in touch with foreign affairs while serving in a different department in the late government, it is not expected that it will take long for him to be as well prepared as Viscount Grey, the retiring foreign secretary, to take charge of great Britain's end of any negotiations which might follow Germany's offer.

Although it is still a matter of mere speculation, diplomats believe the modus operandi would follow the precedent set by the negotiations which ended the Spanish-American war, when France presented the Spanish offer through Jules Cambon, the French ambassador at Washington. No action could be taken, of course, without full consultation with Great Britain's allies. Much speculation in official circles as to the possible outcome of the reichstag today had hardly prepared them for an actual offer of peace and the utmost curiosity was displayed as to the details of the proposed terms.

Afternoon papers which were on the streets at 6 o'clock, contained only brief bulletins giving the bare facts of the German chancellor's announcement that a formal offer for peace negotiations had been made. The general impression was that the German offer was not likely to bring immediate results, particularly as if the emperor's announcement indicated it was made on the basis that the central powers are victorious.

Later editions of the evening newspapers comment sarcastically on the German peace offer. The Evening News says that inasmuch as the Germans have obtained their "maximum of plunder" and "as the avenger in the shape of Lloyd-George is about to inflict punishment," Germany now desires to make peace.

"The chancellor's declaration is almost blasphemous," the News continues. "After the crushing of the citizens of Rumania and the deportation of French and Belgians, the kaiser and chancellor place on the allies the responsibility for continuing the war."

TEXT OF NOTE ADDRESSED TO HOSTILE GOVERNMENTS

Berlin, Dec. 12.—Following is the text of the note addressed by Germany and her allies to the hostile governments:

"The most terrific war ever experienced in history, has been raging for the last two years and a half over a large part of the world—a catastrophe which thousands of years of common civilization was unable to prevent, and which ushers the most precious achievements of humanity. Our aims are not to shatter nor annihilate our adversaries, in spite of our consciousness of our military and economic strength and our readiness to continue the war (which has been forced upon us) until the bitter end, if necessary—at the same time prompted by the desire to avoid further bloodshed and make an end to the atrocities of war, the four allied powers propose to enter forthwith into peace negotiations.

"The propositions which they bring forward for such negotiations and which have for their object a guarantee of the existence of the honor and liberty of evolution for their nations, are according to their firm belief, an appropriate basis for the establishment of a lasting peace.

"The four allied powers have been obliged to take up arms to defend justice and the liberty of national evolution. The glorious deeds of our armies have in no way altered their purpose. We always maintained the firm belief that our own rights and justified claims in no way control the rights of these nations.

"The spiritual and material progress which were the pride of Europe at the beginning of the twentieth century, are threatened with ruin. Germany and her allies, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey, gave proof of their unconquerable strength in this struggle. They gained gigantic advantages over adversaries superior in number and war material. Our lines stand unshaken against ever repeated attempts made by armies.

"The last attack in the Balkans has been rapidly and victoriously overcome. The most recent events have demonstrated that further continuance of the war will not result in breaking the resistance of our forces and the whole situation with regard to our troops justifies our expectation of further success.

"If in spite of this offer of peace and reconciliation the struggle go on, the four allied powers are resolved to continue to a victorious end, but they disclaim responsibility for this before humanity and history. The imperial government through the good offices of your excellency ask the government of (here is inserted the name of the neutral power addressed in each instance) to bring this communication to the knowledge of the government of (here are inserted the names of the belligerents)."

After reading the note the chancellor said:

"Gentlemen: In August, 1914, our enemies challenged the superiority of power in the world war. Today we raise the question of peace, which is a question of humanity. We await the answer of our enemies with that serenity of mind which is guaranteed to us by our exterior and interior strength and by our clear conscience. If our enemies decline to end the war, if they wish to take upon themselves the world's heavy burden of all these terrors which hereafter will follow then even in the least and smallest houses every German heart will burn in sacred wrath against our enemies who are unwilling to stop human slaughter in order that their plans of conquest and annihilation may continue.

"In a fateful hour we took a fateful decision. God will be the judge. We can proceed upon our way without fear and unshaken. We are ready for fighting and we are ready for peace."

The chancellor's speech was listened to by thronged galleries. The royal box was crowded. All the ambassadors, ministers of foreign governments were in the diplomatic box.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY ENTERS PLEA OF SELF-DEFENSE

London, Dec. 12.—An official Austrian

(Continued on Page Six.)

JAPANESE QUESTION CONTINUES TO TAKE UP MOST OF TIME OF THE SENATE TODAY

Immigration Problem and Senate Committee Amendment Eliminating Reference to Passport Agreements Under Discussion.

RACE ISSUE RAISED BY MISSISSIPPI SENATOR

Williams Upbraids Colleagues for Their Attitude Toward the Negro; Terms Present Controversy "Tempest in a Teapot."

(By Evening Herald Leased Wire)

Washington, Dec. 12.—By a vote of 42 to 14, the senate late today adopted the committee amendment to the immigration bill which would exclude Hindus and other Asiatics without mentioning them by name and which eliminates from the bill reference to passport agreements.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Discussion of Japanese immigration and the senate committee amendment eliminating all reference to passport agreements in the pending immigration bill was renewed in the senate today when Senator Chamberlain offered an amendment to restore mention of the agreements. He thought elimination of mention of passport agreements would abrogate the Root-Takahira agreement and leave absolutely no restriction on Japanese immigration. The American slogan, he said, ought to be "safety first in protecting our race from any disintegration."

Senator Smith of South Carolina, denied that failure to mention the agreement would abrogate it.

"Japan is religiously keeping the agreement and there is nothing to be gained by the proposal to refer to this agreement in the bill except to irritate Japan," he said. "You are doing a thing which can only anger the nation which is keeping this agreement and which does not give you any additional safeguard whatever.

"If it is the intent and purpose of the United States to abrogate a solemn treaty and disregard our compact with another nation, I should not vote for it. But I submit that it should be done openly and above board if such is the intention and that Japan should be told that we are going to exclude them."

"That's just exactly what we ought to do," said Senator Works of California, "but apparently we are not ready to do that yet."

Senator Phelan of California, persuaded Senator Chamberlain to withdraw his amendment and substituted therefor another amendment to provide that nothing in the committee proposal should be construed to repeal any existing "treaty or agreement" which restricts immigration. Senator Smith and other members of the committee insisted that this proposal would be open to the same objections that were made to Japan in the original language in the house bill.

Senator Williams of Mississippi declared he could not see why such a "tempest in a teapot" was being made over the Japanese question, particularly when Japan had lived up to its agreement and as a government has treated us in the best possible way.

"The trouble here with some of you," said he, "is that you are willing to declare the United States to be a white man's country in one instance and not in another. Some of you who are shouting loudest now about Japanese exclusion voted a little while ago against exclusion of negroes from this country. You stand around and raise international complications about the Japanese who are hitner civilized than you are, but dare not, because of local conditions, declare as to the negro that this is a white man's country. I am alluding not only to western Republicans but also to northern Democrats when I declare that you are willing to say this is a white man's country in a way, but please don't offend the negro voter in my district."

Without a roll call the senate adopted Senator Phelan's amendment which provides that nothing in the act should be construed to repeal any existing "law, treaty or agreement" which serves to prohibit or restrict immigration.

Senator Works said the people of California do not claim the Japanese are an inferior race but were against Japanese immigration because the race does not assimilate with the white race. He said he believed the Root-Takahira gentlemen's agreement was being violated by the entrance into this country of Japanese women. He said there were 100,000 Japanese males in this country, most of them in California, and predicted that if women were not forbidden entrance most of the men would soon be married and have families. Under California law, he pointed out, children of Japanese parents born there would be citizens. He declared the law prohibiting ownership of land by Japanese is being violated now by conveyances to Japanese children born in the state.

"I hope," he said in conclusion, "that we will not become a nation of cowards, afraid to protect our own nation against any nation on earth."

Senator Chamberlain said he favored going further than the bill now goes and stating the peoples by name that should be excluded. He said he had no fear of war over such a bill but added that if war came, the United States would be prepared.

Briand Has Completed The Reconstruction Of French Cabinet

(By Evening Herald Leased Wire)

Paris, Dec. 12.—Premier Briand announced today that he had completed reconstruction of the cabinet and that the list will appear in tomorrow's Journal Official. The premier is expected to make a statement to parliament tomorrow.

UNOFFICIAL LIST SHOWS BRIAND HEADS CABINET

Paris, Dec. 12 (4:15 p. m.).—The new French cabinet, according to an unofficial list available today is comprised as follows:

Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs—Aristide Briand.

Minister of Finance—Alexandre Ribot.

Minister of War—General Hubert L. Vantey.

Minister of Marine—Rear Admiral Lacaze.

Minister of Fabrication Nationale, including munitions and transportation—Albert Thomas.

Minister of Public Instruction—Paul Painleve.

The six foregoing cabinet members will form a council of national defense.

Howard Gray's Death Confirmed in Message Received from Consul

(By Evening Herald Leased Wire)

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 12.—A telegram was received here today by the Alvarado Mining and Milling company from a foreign consul in Torreon, Coahuila, confirming the reported killing of Howard Gray or Howard Weeks at Parral by Villa followers. The message also stated a Frenchman named Alexander Rieault, of Parral, had also been killed by the Villa soldiers when they occupied Parral.

Lloyd-George Still Ill; Statement of New Policy Delayed

(By Evening Herald Leased Wire)

London, Dec. 12.—The absence through illness of Premier Lloyd-George and former Premier Asquith, the principal figures in the late ministerial crisis and the decision of the cabinet to postpone until Thursday its statement of policy, which usually attaches to the first meeting of the new government with parliament. However, a large number of members returned to London for the session. The attitude of those whose position remained in doubt was indicated by the seats they took, either behind the cabinet or with the opposing forces. Meanwhile, the new ministers are mastering their departments, which most of them took over yesterday.

Strong Point Lost By Appellants in The Slingsby Case

(By Evening Herald Leased Wire)

London, Dec. 12.—The appellants in the Slingsby legitimacy case lost what was considered one of the strongest points in favor of the child in the hearing before the house of lords today. In the trial in the probate court, Sir George Frampton, the sculptor, informed the court that he noted an extraordinary resemblance between Teddy Slingsby and Charles R. Slingsby, who contends the infant is his son and is seeking to gain for the child the Slingsby estate in Yorkshire. The house of lords ruled today that the evidence of Sir George before the lower court was worthless.

Grand Cross of the Iron Cross Is to be Worn by the Kaiser

(By Evening Herald Leased Wire)

Berlin (Via London, Dec. 12.)—An official announcement issued here today says that Field Marshal von Hindenburg, as the oldest active general of the Prussian army, in the name of the army, has made a request of the emperor that he himself wear the grand cross of the iron cross. The emperor has accepted.

FLEEING RUMANIANS ARE BEING PURSUED BY THE TEUTONS IN EASTERN WALLACHIA

Troops of Central Powers Continue Close on the Heels of the Retreating Enemy; Some German Attacks Prove Futile.

FRANCO-BELGIAN FRONT SCENE OF NEW ACTIVITY

Balfour Is Occupying Himself With Greek Problem; Steps Being Taken to Reach Solution at Earliest Date Possible.

(By Evening Herald Leased Wire)

Peace proposals have been made by Germany and her allies.

According to a semi-official announcement in Berlin the proposals are, in the belief of the central powers, "appropriate for the establishment of a lasting peace."

The dispatches, however, give no details as to what terms are proposed. These will be made public in a speech by Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German imperial chancellor, in the reichstag today.

In the field of war, the Teutonic advance in eastern Wallachia is continuing with the Rumanians apparently seeking to take up a defensive line along the Buzeu river near the southern boundary of their northern province of Moldavia. Petrograd reports the failure of Teutonic attacks along the Moldavian front and in certain Wallachian sectors, notably northeast of Ploesti, where the Austro-German forces are pressing towards Buzeu.

New activity has been developed by the Germans on the Franco-Belgian front. They attacked last evening on the edge of Des Loges wood, south of the Somme sector, but, according to Paris, were checked and driven out of positions of the advanced positions which they had occupied.

The British foreign office, under the new foreign secretary, A. J. Balfour, is occupying itself with the Greek problem regarding which announcement was made yesterday that steps were being taken in an effort to reach a very radical solution.

RUSSIANS RENEW ATTACKS ON MOLDAVIAN FRONTIER

Berlin, Dec. 12. (By wireless to Sayville.)—Heavy attacks by the Russians in the wooded Carpathians and along the Moldavian frontier of Rumania were renewed yesterday, says today's war office statement. The attacks were repulsed.

The town of Misli, on the railway between Ploesti and Buzeu, has been captured by the Austro-German forces. Urziceni also has been occupied.

ATTACKS OF TEUTONS IN RUMANIA NOT SUCCESSFUL

Petrograd, Dec. 12.—(Via London.)—The failure of Teutonic attacks in Rumania is reported in today's communication from their office which follows:

"On the Rumanian front on Sunday the enemy made unsuccessful attacks in the valley of the river Buzeu, north of Tabacari, on the river Krchev and west of Misli.

"In Dobrudja an exchange of fire is proceeding.

"In the wooded Carpathians our enemy continued attacks at a point five verstes northeast of Chlipena and in the region of Capul mountain. Both attacks were arrested by our fire.

"In the region east of Delbor the attacking enemy was beaten back. Our detachments pursued them and captured two heights.

"In the valley of the Putna river enemy attacks were repulsed on the front six verstes northeast of Glashutt, south of the valley of the Uzul river. We captured one of the heights."

FIVE SMALL BULGARIAN POSTS TAKEN BY FRENCH

Paris, Dec. 12.—Five small Bulgarian posts on the right bank of the Vardar river in the Macedonian front have been captured by the French, it is announced officially. The operations north of Monastir are being impeded by snow.

Paris, Dec. 12.—The text of today's official statement follows:

"In the region to the north of Lake Ostrovo, yesterday, exceeding the German after a spirited bombardment, attacked our trenches at the eastern boundary of Des Loges wood. Our curtain of fire checked the attack, however, and certain detachments of the enemy who had secured a footing in our advanced positions were driven out. After fighting in which hand grenades were used our line was completely reestablished.

"There was the customary cannonading last night along the rest of the front."