

# No Peace with Autocracy, Says Wilson

President Wilson, on October 14, answered Germany's peace overtures in a note in reply to the communication from the German government under date of October 12.

## TEXT OF THE ANSWER

The text of the President's answer, handed to the Charge of Switzerland at Washington, was as follows:

Sir: In reply to the communication of the German government dated the 12th instant which you handed me today. I have the honor to request you to transmit the following answer.

The unqualified acceptance by the present German government and by a large majority of the Reichstag of the terms laid down by the President of the United States of America in his address to the congress of the United States on the 8th of January, 1918, and in his subsequent addresses, justifies the President in making a frank and direct statement of his decision with regard to the communications of the German government of the 8th and 12th of October, 1918.

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 and guarantees of the maintenance of the present military supremacy of the armies of the United States and the allies in the field.

He feels confident that he can safely assume that this will also be the judgment and decision of the allied governments.

The President feels that it is also his duty to add that neither the government of the United States nor, he is quite sure, the governments with which the government of the United States is associated, as a belligerent will consent to consider an armistice so long as the armed forces of Germany continue the illegal and inhumane practices which they still persist in.

At the very time that the German government approaches the government of the United States with proposals of peace its submarines are engaged in sinking passenger ships at sea and not the ships alone, but the very boats in which their passengers and crew seek to make their way to safety, and in their present enforced withdrawal from Flanders and France the German armies are pursuing a course of wanton destruction which has always been regarded as in direct violation of the rules and practices of civilized warfare. Cities and villages, if not destroyed, are being stripped of all they contain not only, but often of their very inhabitants. The nations associated against Germany cannot be expected to agree to a cessation of arms while acts of inhumanity, spoliation, and desolation are being continued which they justly look upon with horror and with burning hearts.

It is necessary, also in order that there may be no possibility of misunderstanding that the President should very solemnly call the attention of the government of Germany to the language and plain intent of one of the terms of peace which the German government has now accepted. It is contained in the address of the President delivered at Mount Vernon on the Fourth of July last.

It is as follows: "The destruction of every arbitrary power anywhere that can separately, secretly and of its single choice disturb the peace of the world; or, if it cannot be presently destroyed, at least its reduction to virtual impotency." The power which has hitherto controlled the German nation is of the sort here described. It is within the choice of the German nation to alter it. The President's words just quoted naturally constitute a condition precedent to peace, if peace is to come by the action of the German people themselves. The President feels bound to say that the whole process of peace will in his judgment depend on the definiteness and the satisfactory character of the guarantees which can be given in this fundamental matter. It is indispensable that the governments associated against Germany should know beyond a peradventure with whom they are dealing.

The President will make a separate reply to the royal and imperial government of Austro-Hungary. Accept, sir, the renewed assurances of my high consideration.

ROBERT LANSING.

Mr. Frederick Oederlin, Charge d'Affaires, ad interim, in charge of German interests in the United States.

## GERMANY LAUNCHES PEACE OFFENSIVE

A Washington dispatch, dated October 8th, says: The text of President Wilson's reply to the imperial German chancellor, Prince Maximilian, was made public by Secretary Lansing together with the official text of Prince Maximilian's note. At the same time officials let it be known that there would be no reply at present to the Austrian note similar to that of the German chancellor. It is not considered necessary to deal with Austria until the times comes for a reply to her dominating ally.

The following correspondence was given out at the state department:

Legation of Switzerland, Washington, D. C., Oct. 6, 1918, department of German interests.

Mr. President: I have the honor to transmit herewith, upon the instructions from the German government, received by this legation late this afternoon, from the Swiss foreign office.

An English translation of this communication is also enclosed: The German original text, however, is alone to be considered as authoritative. Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of highest consideration.

Signed,

F. OEDERLIN,

Charge d'Affaires, A. I., of Switzerland. In charge of German interests in the United States.

## THE GERMAN REQUEST

Mr. Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States.

A communication from the German government to the president of the United States as transmitted by the charge d'affaires, A. I., of Switzerland, on October 6, 1918.

The German government requests the president of the United States of America to take steps for the restoration of peace, to notify all belligerents of this request and to invite them to delegate plenipotentiaries for the purpose of taking up negotiations. The German government accepts as a basis for the peace negotiations the program laid down by the president of the United States in his message to congress on January 8, 1918, and in his subsequent pronouncements, particularly in his address of September 27, 1918. In order to avoid further bloodshed the German government requests to bring about the immediate conclusion of a general armistice on land, on water, and in the air.

## THE PRESIDENT'S ANSWER

The text of President Wilson's reply to the request of Chancellor Maximilian of Germany, handed to the Charge of Switzerland at Washington, October 8, is as follows:

"Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge on behalf of the president, your note of October 6, enclosing the communication from the German government to the president; and I am instructed by the president to request you to make the following communication to the imperial German chancellor:

"Before making reply to the request of the imperial German government, and in order that that reply shall be candid and straightforward as the momentous interests involved require, the president of the United States deems it necessary to assure himself of the exact meaning of the note of the imperial chancellor. Does the imperial chancellor mean that the imperial German government accepts the terms laid down by the president in his address to the congress of the United States on the eighth of January last and in subsequent addresses and that its object in entering into discussions would be only to agree upon the practical details of their application?

"The president feels bound to say with regard to the suggestions of an armistice that he would not feel at liberty to propose a cessation of arms to the governments with which the government of the United States is associated against the central powers, so long as the armies of those powers are upon their soil. The good faith of any discussion would manifestly depend upon

the consent of the central powers immediately to withdraw their forces everywhere from invaded territory.

"The president also feels that he is justified in asking whether the imperial chancellor is speaking merely for constituted authorities of the empire who have so far conducted the war. He deems the answer to these questions vital from every point of view.

"Accept, sir, the renewed assurances of my high consideration.

ROBERT LANSING."

## TEXT OF GERMAN REPLY

A Washington dispatch, dated October 12th, says: The text of the German reply to President Wilson's note follows:

"In reply to the question of the president of the United States of America the German government hereby declares:

"The German government has accepted the terms laid down by President Wilson in his address of January 8, and in his subsequent addresses on the foundation of a permanent peace of justice. Consequently, its object in entering into discussions would be only to agree upon practical details of the application of these terms. The German government believes that the governments of the powers associate with the government of the United States also take the position taken by President Wilson in his address. The German government, in accordance with the Austro-Hungarian government for the purpose of bringing about an armistice, declares itself ready to comply with the propositions of the president in regard to evacuation.

"The German government suggests that the president may occasion the meeting of a mixed commission for making the necessary arrangements concerning the evacuation. The present German government, which has undertaken the responsibility for this step towards peace, has been formed by conferences and in agreement with the great majority of the Reichstag. The chancellor, supported in all of his actions by the will of this majority, speaks in the name of the German government and of the German people.

"Berlin, October 12, 1918.

SOLF,

"State Secretary of Foreign Office."

## "WE'LL STICK TO THE FINISH"

The Chapple Publishing Company, of Boston, has just issued a new war book, "We'll Stick to the Finish," by Mr. Joe Chapple, editor to the National Magazine. Mr. Chapple's long familiarity with official life in America and his intimate personal acquaintance with the department heads in Washington gave him a unique advantage in his trip to the war zone, where he was able to carry the personal greetings of the leaders of America to those of the Allies across the sea.

The book is a complete record of his trip and nothing of interest that came under his observation as a trained editor and magazine writer has been omitted. From cover to cover it has the swing of a swift martial step as he traveled the different sections of the war zone from the Italian front to Flanders. Up along the battle lines he went, now with his gas mask on, now with it off, but all the time with eyes and ears wide open. The big drive was on at the time and he saw the American boys in the fight; he saw them being brought back to the Base Hospitals wounded, but, too, he saw the wonderful spirit of the boys "Over There." "Tell them back home," they said to him, "We'll Stick to the Finish," and their message has been made a fitting title for the book.

On the Italian front Italy's army welcomed the American soldiers boys as enthusiastically as did the French. General Diaz, the Italian hero, "looks like George B. Cortelyou." Generals Joffre, Pershing, Foch and Haig — all the famous generals of the Allies are touched upon in the book, in that free and easy, "I met him and this is the kind of a fellow he is" manner.

Perhaps the best chapter of the book deals with the Red Cross, the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., K. of C., Salvation army and other civilian activities, behind the lines.

Personal interviews with the premiers of France, Italy and England are notable contributions to the war literature of the times.

From the North of England to the Irish Sea, Mr. Chapple encompassed the vast war preparations of England. He visited the great British and American fleets and spoke to many gatherings of American sailor boys.

Mr. Chapple has long been known for his literary work, but in his latest book, "We'll Stick to the Finish," he has written not alone for the present but for all time.