

Germany will afford the best concrete evidence of her unequivocal acceptance of the terms and principles of peace from which the whole action proceeds.

DOUBTS POLITICAL REFORMS

"The President would deem himself lacking in candor did he not point out in the frankest possible terms the reason why extraordinary safeguards must be demanded. Significant and important as the constitutional changes seem to be which are spoken of by the German foreign secretary in his note of the 20th of October, it does not appear that the principle of a government responsible to the German people has yet been fully worked out or that any guarantees either exist or are in contemplation that the alterations of principle and of practice now partially agreed upon will be permanent.

"Moreover, it does not appear that the heart of the present difficulty has been reached. It may be that future war has been brought under the control of the German people, but the present war has not been, and it is with the present war that we are dealing. It is evident that the German people have no means of commanding the acquiescence of the military authorities of the empire in the popular will; that the power of the King of Prussia to control the policy of the empire is unimpaired; that the determining initiative still remains with those who have hitherto been the masters of Germany.

CANNOT TRUST OLD REGIME

"Feeling that the whole peace of the world depends now on plain speaking and straightforward action, the President deems it his duty to say, without any attempt to soften what may seem harsh words, that the nations of the world do not and cannot trust the word of those who have hitherto been the masters of German policy, and to point out once more that in concluding peace and attempting to undo the infinite injuries and injustices of this war the government of the United States cannot deal with any but veritable representatives of the German people, who have been assured of a genuine constitutional standing as the real rulers of Germany.

"If it must deal with the military masters and the monarchical autocrats of Germany now, or if it is likely to have to deal with them later in regard to the international obligations of the German empire, it must demand, not peace negotiations, but surrender. Nothing can be gained by leaving this essential thing unsaid.

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

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

GERMANY PROFFERS PROOF

Germany's answer to President Wilson's note of October 23, as transmitted via Copenhagen October 27, says:

"The German government has taken cognizance of the answer of the President of the United States. The President is aware of the far-reaching changes which have been carried out and are being carried out in the German constitutional structure, and that peace negotiations are being conducted by a people's government in whose hands rests, both actually and constitutionally, the power to make the deciding conclusions.

"The military powers are also subject to it.

"The German government now awaits proposals for an armistice, which shall be the first steps toward a just peace, as the President has described it in his proclamation.

(Signed) SOLF."

TEXT OF SECRETARY LANSING'S NOTE

A Washington dispatch, dated Nov. 5th, says: Marshal Foch has been authorized by the United States and by the allies to receive representatives of the German government and to communicate to them the terms of an armistice.

The German government is so informed in a note handed to the Swiss minister here today by Secretary Lansing.

The text of Secretary Lansing's note follows: "In my note of October 23, 1918, I advised you that the President had transmitted his correspondence with the German authorities to the government with which the government of the United States is associated as a belligerent, with the suggestion that, if these governments were disposed to accept peace upon the terms and

principles indicated, their military advisers and the military advisers of the United States be asked to submit to the governments associated against Germany the necessary terms of such an armistice as would fully protect the interests of the peoples involved and insure to the associated governments the unrestricted power to safeguard and enforce the details of the peace to which the German government had agreed, provided they deem such an armistice possible from the military point of view.

"The President is now in receipt of a memorandum of observations by the allied governments on this correspondence, which is as follows:

"The allied governments have given careful consideration to the correspondence which has passed between the President of the United States and the German government. Subject to the qualifications which follow, they declare their willingness to make peace with the government of Germany on the terms of peace laid down in the President's address to congress of January, 1918, and the principles of settlement enunciated in his subsequent addresses.

"They must point out, however, that clause two, relating to what is usually described as the freedom of the seas, is open to various interpretations, some of which they could not accept. They must, therefore, reserve to themselves complete freedom on this subject when they enter the peace conference.

"Further, in the conditions of peace laid down in his address to congress of January 8, 1918, the President declared that invaded territories must be restored as well as evacuated and freed. The allied governments feel that no doubt ought to be allowed to exist as to what this provision implies. By it they understand that compensation will be made by Germany for all damage done to the civilian population of the allies and their property by the aggression of Germany by land, by sea and from the air."

"I am instructed by the President to say that he is in agreement with the interpretation set forth in the last paragraph of the memorandum to notify the German government that Marshal Foch has been authorized by the government of the United States and the allied governments to receive properly accredited representatives of the German government and to communicate to them the terms of an armistice.

"Accept, sir, the renewed assurance of my highest consideration.

"ROBERT LANSING."

WILSON'S REPLY TO AUSTRIA, URGING LIBERTY FOR SLAVS

The text of the American reply to Austria, handed to the Swedish minister at Washington, October 19, follows:

"Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 7th instant, in which you transmit a communication of the Imperial and Royal Government of Austria-Hungary to the President. I am now instructed by the President to request you to be good enough, through your Government, to convey to the Imperial and Royal Government the following reply:

"The President deems it his duty to say to the Austro-Hungarian government that he can not entertain the present suggestions of that government because of certain events of utmost importance which, occurring since the delivery of his address of the 8th of January last, have necessarily altered the attitude and responsibility of the Government of the United States. Among the fourteen terms of peace which the President formulated at the time occurred the following:

"10. The peoples of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the freest opportunity of autonomous development.

"Since that sentence was written and uttered to the congress of the United States, the government of the United States has recognized that a state of belligerency exists between the Czechoslovaks and the German and Austro-Hungarian empires, and that the Czechoslovak National Council is a de facto belligerent government clothed with proper authority to direct the military and political affairs of the Czechoslovaks. It has also recognized in the fullest manner the justice of the nationalistic aspirations of the Jugo-Slavs for freedom.

"The President is therefore no longer at liberty to accept the mere 'autonomy' of these

peoples as a basis of peace, but is obliged to insist that they and not he shall be the judges of what action on the part of the Austro-Hungarian government will satisfy their aspirations and their conception of their rights and destiny as members of the family of nations.

"Accept, sir, the renewed assurance of my highest consideration. ROBERT LANSING."

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN OFFER OF PEACE

In announcing his reply Secretary Lansing also made public the official text of the Austro-Hungarian note. It follows:

"Legation of Sweden, Washington, October 7, 1918 (translation).—Excellency: By order of my government I have the honor confidentially to transmit herewith to you the following communication of the Imperial and Royal government of Austria-Hungary to the President of the United States of America: "The Austro-Hungarian monarchy, which has waged war always and solely as a defensive war, and repeatedly given documentary evidence of its readiness to stop the shedding of blood and to arrive at a just and honorable peace, hereby addresses itself to his lordship the President of the United States of America, and offers to conclude with him and his allies an armistice on every front on land, at sea and in the air, and to enter immediately upon negotiations for a peace for which the fourteen points in the message of President Wilson to congress of January 8, 1918, and the four points contained in President Wilson's address of February 12, 1918, should serve as a foundation and in which the viewpoints declared by President Wilson in his address of September 27, 1918, will also be taken into account." Be pleased to accept, etc.

"W. A. F. EKENGREN.

"His Excellency Mr. Robert Lansing, Secretary of State of the United States, Washington."

AUSTRIA ACCEPTS CONDITIONS

The text of the Austro-Hungarian note to President Wilson, as transmitted from Basel, Switzerland, October 28, follows:

"In reply to the note of President Wilson of October 19, addressed to the Austro-Hungarian government and giving the decision of the President to speak directly with the Austro-Hungarian government on the question of an armistice and of peace, the Austro-Hungarian government has the honor to declare that equally with the preceding proclamations of the President, it adheres also to the same point of view contained in the last note upon the rights of the Austro-Hungarian peoples, especially those of Czechoslovaks and the Jugo Slavs.

"Consequently Austro-Hungary is accepting all the conditions the President has laid down for the entry into negotiations for an armistice and peace, no obstacle exists, according to the judgment of the Austro-Hungarian government to the beginning of these negotiations.

"The Austro-Hungarian government declares itself ready, in consequence, without awaiting the result of other negotiations upon peace between Austro-Hungary and the states in the opposing group and for an immediate armistice upon all Austro-Hungarian fronts.

"It asks President Wilson to be so kind as to begin overtures on this subject.

"ANDRASSY."

TEXT OF ARMISTICE CONDITIONS ACCEPTED BY AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

The armistice conditions imposed upon Austria-Hungary, as provided by the United States-allied council at Versailles, which became operative November 4, were made public at Washington by the state department on that date. The terms accepted by Austria-Hungary were as follows:

MILITARY CLAUSES

"1—The immediate cessation of hostilities by land, sea and air.

"2—Total demobilization of the Austro-Hungarian army, and immediate withdrawal of all Austro-Hungarian forces operating on the front from the North sea to Switzerland.

"Within Austro-Hungarian territory, limited as in clause 3 below, there shall be only maintained an organized military (force) reduced to pre-war effectives (effectiveness?)

"Half the divisional, corps and army artillery and equipment shall be collected at points to be indicated by the allies and United States of America for delivery to them, beginning with