

# Hughes Proposal Is Bombshell to Arms Conference

### Meeting Lifted to Highest Plane by Statement of Secretary of State—Resembles Paris Assembly.

(Continued From Page One.)  
tremendous applause as the president read this passage, and he was frequently interrupted thereafter in his expose of the need for co-operation among the powers to decrease manufacture of war material and thus decrease opportunities and lust for war. The assemblage rose and stood applauding as President Harding withdrew at the end of his speech.

Mr. Hughes immediately arose and announced that French and English would be the official languages at the conference, but that since copies of Mr. Harding's speech in French had been distributed, there would be no translation.

**Briand Thanks Hughes.**  
M. Briand was on his feet the instant M. Kamenyck had translated Mr. Hughes remarks and thanked the secretary of state for inclusion of the French language.

No sooner had M. Briand seated himself than Mr. Balfour arose. Although no applause had greeted the French premier when he stood up to thank Mr. Hughes, a great burst of handclapping marked the appearance of the chief British delegate.

Articulating his words carefully and slowly, with his hands in their customary position—grasping the lapels of his coat collar—Mr. Balfour took the liberty, on behalf of other visiting delegations, to request Mr. Hughes to accept the office of chairman of the conference. Mr. Balfour also suggested that Mr. Hughes act as chairman of any committees of which he might be a member, thereby obviating the necessity of electing these officers.

Another round of applause met this graceful compliment from the distinguished English diplomat as Mr. Hughes bowed his acceptance while the heads of the other delegations nodded approval.

It had previously been agreed among the delegates that no one should reply to the speeches of President Harding or Secretary Hughes, and disquieting looks were shot around the green tables as Mr. Balfour started to speak.

**Galleries Uneasy.**  
Those in the galleries wondered if this were to be another conference where the British "ran the show" by seizing the initial opportunity at the first available moment to take command. Days of previous conferences and councils in Europe, when the British, always prepared in advance with a thought, took the wheel and steered proceedings from the outset, were conjured up and the question was involuntarily framed, "Will they be able to seize this show from Americans on their own home grounds?"

But the opening words of Mr. Balfour's speech reassured the anxious ones.

The secretary of state read his speech slowly and deliberately. Mr. Hughes explained that the two problems of limitation of armaments and of the far east could be handled together by two committees, the first composed of delegates from the five great powers, the other of the five and representatives from four of the four other nations having interests in the Pacific.

**Pointed Statement.**  
He sketched the history of disarmament efforts in the past and there gave the first inkling of the almost brutal frankness that was to come. He deliberately and specifically mentioned Germany, and the German kaiser, who threatened not to participate in the Hague tribunal if the subject of disarmament were discussed. Visiting delegates looked sideways, one at the other, to hear the director of the foreign affairs and policies of the United States make such a pointed statement and those had believed that the conference was to be merely a string of speeches and empty resolutions began to take heart.

"We can no longer content ourselves with investigations, statistics, reports. The time has come and vice, but for action," Mr. Hughes said.

This stirring demand elicited a rattle of applause which spread from the gallery to the floor and in which everyone joined enthusiastically.

**Explodes Bombshell.**  
His call for a 10-year naval holiday a few moments later came with the suddenness and unexpectedness of an aerial bomb.

Cheers joined the rattle of handclapping for the first time, and old school diplomats began to cast worried glances as to how much further that sort of talk would go.

It was when Mr. Hughes announced that he was about to submit a detailed proposition for limitation of naval armaments that the military and naval experts leaned back, stupefied, and the delegates gazed at one another, wondering if they heard him right.

Then Mr. Hughes thrust aside the protocol which has hitherto fettered diplomacy by badly stating that this problem "concerns the British empire, Japan and the United States," thus shearing off immediately participation in these discussions on the same footing of France and Italy.

Ambassador Jusserand and other members of the French delegation who understood English were kept busy translating snatches of the speech and important statements to M. Briand, M. Viviani and M. Berthelot. M. Sarraut, French minister of colonies, who speaks English, was making notes of Mr. Hughes' speech.

**Unfolds American Plan.**  
Amid a hushed, awed silence, Mr. Hughes unfolded "the American plan," endorsed and approved by the United States naval experts and the administration. Surprises had come so fast and furious that there was no further astonishment at anything the secretary of state might say. He could have announced that American airplanes were even then bombing and sinking the British and Japanese fleets and produced no more startling effect.

Mr. Balfour, who had been settling

further and further back in his chair, closed his eyes—as is his wont while listening—and remained immovable as the scheme was unfolded in detail.

Admiral Beatty, in command of the British naval forces, leaned back and gazed at the ceiling, never switching his eyes from that position as the expose went on. His staff officers, rear admirals, commanders, captains, in their gold-embroidered uniforms, were aglaze at such rank intrusion by civilian diplomats into the sacred affairs of the navy, but made no sign while awaiting some indication from their chief.

**Japanese Amazed.**  
Reaction on the part of the Japanese was different. Vice Admiral Kato and the delegates seemed frankly amazed. He turned inquiringly from time to time and whispered to his colleagues, as if to ask assurance that what he heard was correct, that he could believe his own ears.

Only once was there applause, and that was when William Jennings Bryan led it after Mr. Hughes had announced the four main principles in his plan for disarmament, abandoning construction, scrapping old ships, maintenance of the ratio of existing naval strength and application of this proportion for auxiliary combatant craft.

Terminating his speech, with those present still too numb and shaken from the violent effect of the "surprise attack," even to applaud if they had heard, Mr. Hughes, reverting to classic methods at the Paris conference, stated that the session would not then take up other questions on the agenda and suggested adjournment.

Some of the delegates had automatically risen to their feet, their hands placing their papers in their leather sheaths and there was a general pushing back of chairs, when calls from the gallery became audible.

The secretary of state tried to frown them down but they were not to be denied.

"Briand! Briand!" were the words they were crying and then, "Speech, speech."

It was the senate, en masse, on the left of the gallery, that wanted to hear the little French premier and the senators would not be denied.

M. Briand was still unfamiliar with the details of the American plan, but he had understood the general principles.

It was therefore significant that he should have arisen and proclaimed France's readiness to cooperate in any such scheme to reduce the menace of another war and the heavy cost of keeping up such a machine.

Mr. Hughes smiled and started to suggest adjournment again when M. Briand sat down, but again he was outwitted by the senate.

"Viviani! Viviani!" clamored the left half of the balcony, and the others in the room, mistaking the call, shouted, "Italy, Italy," and Mr. Hughes leaned toward Signor Schanzer and invited him to address the conference.

For the third time the chairman of the conference was about to propose adjournment when the senate broke into a third call. It was "Japan, Japan."

This time, and at the nod from Mr. Hughes, Prince Tokugawa arose. The Japanese plenipotentiary skidded skillfully from thin ice on the high seas and the scrapped battleships.

It was 12:30 then and the senators were willing to end the show and get away for luncheon, but Mr. Hughes' blood was up and he determined to give his opponents the medicine. In another short address he drew attention to the fact the representatives of the "big five" powers had spoken and that the delegates from the four other states would be heard.

So successively, the Dutch, the Chinese, the Belgian and the Portuguese delegates arose and made little speeches, all of which were duly translated while those present fretfully awaited the opportunity to discuss the thing uppermost in their minds—the daring American plan.

The Japanese was asked to remain in their seats until the delegates have left the hall, was the admonishment given when adjournment was taken, but little heed was paid to it. Fortunately, too, because few of the delegates left immediately. They would not discuss the Hughes plan with reporters.

**Chinese Delegation Confident of Fair Play**  
Washington, Nov. 13.—(By The Associated Press.)—China entered the discussion of far eastern and Pacific problems "in absolute confidence that its sovereign rights and legitimate national interests will be respected," it was said in a statement issued by Dr. Sze, Chinese minister to the United States and a Chinese delegate.

"The Chinese government is convinced that by friendly agreement among nations, it is possible to establish and maintain a regime under which the legitimate interests of every nation may be fostered and safeguarded," the statement said.

"Today, with faith unshaken and confidence unabated, China believes that the world council will determine the basis on which, as far as the Pacific is concerned, such harmony may be established. China comes to this august assembly in confidence that its sovereign rights and legitimate national interests will be respected."

**Church Assembly Urged To Support Arms Meeting**  
Atlantic City, N. J., Nov. 13.—The executive commission of the Presbyterian general assembly was urged by Doctor A. R. Brown, general secretary of the board of foreign missions, to support the Washington conference. He also made a plea for \$5,824,000 to carry on the work of the board next year.

Dr. H. C. Swearingen of St. Paul, the moderator, expressed some doubt about the aggregate budget reaching the total of last year, \$12,000,000.

**Deshler Baby is Fatally Burned Playing in Home**  
Deshler, Neb., Nov. 13.—(Special.)—The 2-year-old daughter of Henry Posthast, residing near this city, was fatally burned while playing with other small children in the house. The mother was attending to some work outside and returning found the child in flames.

# Text of American Proposals For Limitation of Armament

(Continued From Page One.)  
ply to the ships of each of the powers party to this agreement.

(1) Each of the powers party to this agreement agrees to inform promptly all of the other powers party to this agreement concerning: 1. The name of the capital ships to be replaced by new construction. 2. The date of authorization of replacement tonnage. 3. The dates of laying the keels of replacement tonnage.

(2) The displacement tonnage of each new ship to be laid down. 5. The actual date of completion of each new ship. 6. The fact and date of the scrapping of ships replaced.

(g) No fabricated parts of capital ships including parts of hulls, engines and ordnance shall be constructed previous to the date of authorization of replacement tonnage. A list of such parts will be furnished all powers party to this agreement.

(h) In case of the loss or accidental destruction of capital ships, they may be replaced by new capital ships, construction in conformity with the foregoing rules.

**Auxiliary Combatant Craft.**  
13. In treating this subject, auxiliary combatant craft have been divided into three classes: (a) Auxiliary surface combatant craft. (b) Submarines. (c) Airplane carriers and air-craft.

14. The term "auxiliary surface combatant craft" includes cruisers (exclusive of battle cruisers), flotilla leaders, destroyers, and all other surface types except those specifically exempted in the following paragraph.

15. Existing monitors, unarmored surface craft as specified in paragraph 16, and 5,000 ton ships, repair ships, tenders, repair ships, tugs, mine sweepers and vessels readily convertible from merchant vessels are exempt from the terms of this agreement.

16. No new auxiliary combatant craft may be built except from the tonnage limitation of combatant armaments that exceed 3,000 tons displacement and 15 knots speed and carry more than 4-5 guns.

17. It is proposed that the total tonnage of cruisers, flotilla leaders and destroyers allowed each power shall be: For the United States, 450,000 tons. For Great Britain, 450,000 tons. For Japan, 270,000 tons.

Provided, however, that no power party to this agreement whose total tonnage in auxiliary surface combatant craft on November 11, 1921, exceeds the prescribed tonnage shall be required to scrap excess tonnage until replacements begin, at which time the total tonnage of auxiliary combatant craft for each nation shall be reduced to the prescribed allowance as herein stated.

**Limitation of New Construction.**  
18. A. All auxiliary surface combatant craft whose keels have been laid down by November 11, 1921, may be carried to completion.

B. No new construction in auxiliary surface combatant craft except replacement tonnage as provided hereinafter, shall be laid down during the period of this agreement, provided, however, that such nations as have not reached the auxiliary surface combatant tonnage allowance hereinbefore stated may construct tonnage up to the limit of their allowance.

**Scrapping Old Construction.**  
19. Auxiliary surface combatant craft shall be scrapped in accordance with methods to be agreed upon.

20. It is proposed that the total tonnage of submarines allowed each power shall be: For the United States, 90,000 tons. For Great Britain, 90,000 tons. For Japan, 54,000 tons.

Provided, however, that no power party to this agreement whose total tonnage in submarines on November 11, 1921, exceeds the prescribed tonnage shall be required to scrap excess tonnage until replacements begin, at which time the total tonnage of submarines for each nation shall be reduced to the prescribed allowance as herein stated.

**Limitation of New Airplane Carriers.**  
24. (a) All airplane carriers whose keels have been laid down by November 11, 1921, may be carried to completion.

(b) No new airplane carrier tonnage except replacement tonnage, as provided herein, shall be laid down during the period of this agreement; provided, however, that such nations as have not reached the airplane carrier tonnage hereinbefore stated may construct tonnage up to the limit of their allowance.

25. Airplane carriers shall be scrapped in accordance with methods to be agreed upon.

**Merchant Marine.**  
30. As the importance of the merchant marine is in inverse ratio to the size of naval armaments, regulations must be provided to govern its conversion features for war purposes.

31. All submarines whose keels have been laid down by November 11, 1921, may be carried to completion.

32. It is proposed that the total tonnage of airplane carriers allowed each power shall be as follows: United States, 80,000 tons. Great Britain, 80,000 tons. Japan, 48,000 tons.

Provided, however, that no power party to this agreement whose total tonnage in airplane carriers on November 11, 1921, exceeds the prescribed tonnage, as provided herein, shall be laid down during the period of this agreement; provided, however, that such nations as have not reached the airplane carrier tonnage hereinbefore stated may construct tonnage up to the limit of their allowance.

33. Airplane carriers shall be scrapped in accordance with methods to be agreed upon.

34. Existing monitors, unarmored surface craft as specified in paragraph 16, and 5,000 ton ships, repair ships, tenders, repair ships, tugs, mine sweepers and vessels readily convertible from merchant vessels are exempt from the terms of this agreement.

tonnage in submarines on November 11, 1921, exceeds the prescribed tonnage shall be required to scrap excess tonnage until replacements begin, at which time the total tonnage of submarines for each nation shall be reduced to the prescribed allowance as herein stated.

**Limitation of New Construction.**  
21. A. All submarines whose keels have been laid down by November 11, 1921, may be carried to completion.

B. No new submarine tonnage except replacement tonnage as provided hereinafter, shall be laid down during the period of this agreement, provided, however, that such nations as have not reached the submarine tonnage allowance hereinbefore stated may construct tonnage up to the limit of their allowance.

**Scrapping Old Construction.**  
22. Submarines shall be scrapped in accordance with methods to be agreed upon.

23. It is proposed that the total tonnage of airplane carriers allowed each power shall be as follows: United States, 80,000 tons. Great Britain, 80,000 tons. Japan, 48,000 tons.

Provided, however, that no power party to this agreement whose total tonnage in airplane carriers on November 11, 1921, exceeds the prescribed tonnage, as provided herein, shall be laid down during the period of this agreement; provided, however, that such nations as have not reached the airplane carrier tonnage hereinbefore stated may construct tonnage up to the limit of their allowance.

24. (a) All airplane carriers whose keels have been laid down by November 11, 1921, may be carried to completion.

(b) No new airplane carrier tonnage except replacement tonnage, as provided herein, shall be laid down during the period of this agreement; provided, however, that such nations as have not reached the airplane carrier tonnage hereinbefore stated may construct tonnage up to the limit of their allowance.

25. Airplane carriers shall be scrapped in accordance with methods to be agreed upon.

**Combatant Craft, Replacement.**  
26. (a) Cruisers, 17 years old from date of completion may be replaced by new construction. Keels for such new construction shall not be laid until the tonnage it is intended to replace is 15 years of age from date of completion.

(b) Destroyers and flotilla leaders, 12 years of age from date of completion, may be replaced by new construction. The keels of such new construction shall not be laid until the tonnage it is intended to replace is 11 years of age from date of completion.

(c) Submarines 12 years of age from date of completion may be replaced by new submarine construction, but the keels of such new construction shall not be laid until the tonnage which it is to replace is 17 years of age from date of completion.

(d) Airplane carriers 20 years of age from date of completion may be replaced by new airplane carrier construction, but the keels of such new construction shall not be laid until the tonnage which it is to replace is 17 years of age from date of completion.

(e) No surface vessels carrying guns of caliber greater than eight inches shall be laid down as replacement tonnage for auxiliary combatant surface craft.

(f) The same rules for determining tonnage of auxiliary combatant craft shall apply to the ships of each of the powers party to this agreement.

(g) The scrapping of ships replaced by new construction shall be undertaken not later than the date of completion of the new construction, or if the completion of new tonnage is delayed, then within four years of the laying of the keels of such new construction.

(h) Each of the powers party to this agreement agrees to inform

all other powers party to this agreement concerning: (1) The names or numbers of the ships to be replaced by new construction. (2) The date of authorization of replacement tonnage. (3) The dates of laying the keels of replacement tonnage. (4) The displacement tonnage of each new ship to be laid down. (5) The actual date of completion of each new ship. (6) The fact and date of the scrapping of ships replaced.

(7) No fabricated parts of auxiliary combatant craft, including parts of hulls, engines and ordnance, will be constructed previous to the date of authorization of replacement tonnage. A list of such parts will be furnished all powers party to this agreement.

(8) In case of the loss or accidental destruction of ships of this class they may be replaced by new construction in conformity with the before going rules.

27. The limitation of naval aircraft is not proposed. (Note:—Owing to the fact that naval aircraft may be readily adapted from special types of commercial aircraft, it is not considered practicable to prescribe limits for naval aircraft.)

28. The powers party to this agreement bind themselves not to dispose of combatant vessels of any class in such a manner that they later may become combatant vessels in another way. They bind themselves further not to acquire combatant vessels from any foreign source.

29. No capital ship tonnage nor auxiliary combatant craft tonnage for foreign account shall be constructed within the jurisdiction of any one of the powers party to this agreement during the term of this agreement.

30. As the importance of the merchant marine is in inverse ratio to the size of naval armaments, regulations must be provided to govern its conversion features for war purposes.

# American Proposal For Naval Holiday Surprise to British

London, Nov. 13.—(By The Associated Press.)—The American suggestion at the Washington conference of a 10-year naval holiday came as a surprise to the people of this country, the Washington correspondents of the British newspapers having led the readers to believe that no definite American plans were ready. Hence the program for the wholesale scrapping of capital ships created an enormous sensation.

The Sunday Express hails Armistice week as "a week of moral wonders," and says: "The dawn was breaking as the soul of the British nation bowed itself in prayer for the peace of the world. Saturday crowned a week of miracles with the supreme miracle at Washington. Never in the history of mankind has the world been nearer its dream of brotherhood. Surely there is something not ourselves shaping the world soul and leading it to the light."

**Italian Leader Pleased With Opening of Conference**  
Washington, Nov. 13.—Senator Schanzer, head of the Italian delegation, said to The Associated Press: "No other conference was ever started with so much courage, frankness and clearness. The precision with which Secretary Hughes outlined the American proposal is

most wonderful. I must manifest all my satisfaction for the sincerity and broadmindedness with which America has laid the cards on the table, has laid the question of limitation of naval armaments, not only before the conference, but before the public opinion of the world."



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