

### Aircraft Unable To Replace Capital Ships, British Say

#### Submarine Characterized as Mere "Instrument of Assassination" In Opinion Of Naval Experts.

By The Associated Press. Washington, Nov. 18.—An authoritative statement of British naval views, obtained last night, disclosed that aircraft are not regarded by the British as having displaced capital ships in naval warfare. Aircraft have a distinct place in war, however, and it was said that bombardment of cities might be justified because of the pressure such attacks exerted on enemy governments. British spokesmen pointed out that bombardment of London and Paris from the air during the war, and it was indicated that the British delegation would not favor too sharp a limitation on aircraft operations if the question comes up at the arms conference.

By contrast, the British position of abhorrence to submarines was explained as due to the feeling that the submarine was a mere "instrument of assassination" and incapable of exerting any such influence on peoples and their governments as air raids on cities. The British reply to the suggestion that the submarine was the weapon of the weaker powers was that the weak had never been oppressed by the British navy when there were no submarines.

**Silent on Jap Proposals.** Comment was refused by the British spokesmen on the Japanese modifications to the American proposals. The Japanese suggestions were a variation of the program proposed by the United States and a subject for conference discussion, it was said.

It was denied that in thinking of continuing certain building for technical reasons during the proposed 10-year holiday, the British had ever formally proposed to produce a ship a year. Such a building program would amount to a repudiation of the American naval holiday plan, it was added. It was declared nothing of the kind had been suggested in any official British statement. Many plans had been considered for continuing technical knowledge, but the British delegation was still not committed to any, it was said.

There is no feeling among British officials that the committee of naval officers of the five powers threshing out the American proposals and various modifications suggested should be called upon to report in a matter of hours or days. The American plan was described as most far-reaching and of necessity, it was said, would take time to consider. The group of admirals, it was added, is working at full speed and has made some progress. It was said that the American ratio for submarines, the point about which the chief British proposed modifications hang, had not been considered as yet.

**To Retain Shipyards.** Touching on apprehension that government dockyards might be closed in Great Britain, due to the naval holiday, it was said this was not suggested and that repairs for the retained fleet would require their continued operation.

Another angle of the British view as to desirability of continuing work in some cases through the naval holiday, in order not to lose technical knowledge, applies to armor plate factories. These plants, it was said, could not remain idle 10 years and then resume. Unless provision for continuing them in some measure was made, it was said, the plants would be scrapped and it would require rebuilding 10 years from now, which would absorb all that had been saved by the naval holiday.

**"Modern Bluebeard"** Promises to Produce One of Missing Women

Versailles, Nov. 18.—(By The Associated Press.)—Announcement made in court yesterday by Henri Landru that he would produce one of the missing women the prosecution charges him with having murdered, proved the climax of the trial of the so-called "Bluebeard of Gambais."

The opinion was general that if Landru can make good his declaration he will be acquitted, but that if he fails he will be guillotined. Counsel for the defense refuses to give any inkling of the whereabouts of the missing woman, but it is reported evidence to be produced today will be to the effect that the woman, Madame Cuchet, together with her son, is living in Rio de Janeiro.

The prosecution conceded that Landru had sprung a sensation, as the only direct evidence against him will be produced in the cases of Madame Pascal and Mlle. Marcadier. It is said that the prosecutor will contend that the alleged Madame Cuchet and her son are impostors.

### Japan Expected to Agree to Proposals Made by China

#### Plea for Right to Handle Own Affairs Expected to Be Acceptable to Tokio Government, With One or Two Amendments—Great Britain Noncommittal.

By PHILIP KINSLEY. Washington, Nov. 18.—While Baron Shidehara, the Japanese ambassador, developed a "diplomatic illness" yesterday, which necessitated postponement of a Japanese reply to the Chinese proposals for the settlement of the far eastern questions, indications are that with one or two amendments, the proposals will be agreed to in principle. It is certain that they will form the basis of committee discussion of far eastern politics and that neither Great Britain nor Japan will attempt to bring forth a new formula at this time.

While the Japanese ambassador is recovering from the "slight indisposition" that developed yesterday, the cables to Tokio are busy and the home government is digesting China's demands with a view to seeking points that might trap the Japanese into an untenable position. The general situation remains favorable and Japan will be able to accept most of the principles enunciated.

**Britain Noncommittal.** Great Britain remains noncommittal on the Chinese program, merely declaring that it empowers the "open door."

France offers a rainbow of hope by offering to surrender that part of China which it holds in the south and to act in concert with the other powers on the surrender of extra-territorial rights and concessions. China's case looks fairly hopeful. These demands are practically the same that were presented at the Paris conference.

The sub-committee, consisting of the heads of the delegations, appointed to outline procedure for discussion of Pacific and far eastern questions, met for two hours yesterday.

The full committee is to be convened at a time found to be convenient for members of the delegation. To meet in secret.

This means that the entire conference will meet in secret and discuss the Chinese situation, then take up the American agenda and fit it with the Chinese proposals to make up a program. The American agenda takes up the applications of principles under heads: (1) territorial integrity, (2) administrative integrity, (3) open door and equality of commercial and industrial opportunity, (4) concessions, monopolies or preferential economic privileges, (5) development of railways, including plans relating to the Chinese eastern, (6) preferential railroad rates, (7) status of existing commitments.

Under status of commitments the American program states: "It is expected that opportunity will be afforded to consider and

reach an understanding with respect to unsettled questions involving the nature and scope of commitments under which claims of rights may hereafter be asserted."

This is dangerous territory for the Japanese. The secret treaties of 1918 have never come to light. There are also said to be treaties with France and England that have not been made known.

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Although this problem seriously affects the sovereignty of the three powers concerned, by permitting foreign officials to pry into the most private and intimate affairs of national defense, American expert opinion insists that inspection of the observance of the "naval holiday" is vitally important in forming the crux of the 5-5-3 pact.

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### U.S. May Demand Right to Inspect Other Shipyards

#### America Prepared to Bare All Secrets If Other Powers Agree To Same Course.

By HENRY WALES. Washington, Nov. 18.—Right of inspection of British and Japanese naval shipyards and factories producing naval armament and accessories is what the United States will demand in drafting the detailed agreement from the 5-5-3 plan.

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Without mutual inspection, the 5-5-3 proposal either becomes scrapped itself or the United States is exposed to the most dangerous menace that has beset it yet," said an American naval officer in discussing the matter.

"The United States has never masked its intentions nor camouflaged its policies. American newspapers have followed our naval and military plans and programs, exposing them to the world with accuracy and detail. Secretary of State Hughes has placed his hand face up on the table and we are entitled to the same frankness and fair treatment from other powers."

**Favor Control Committees.** Naval control committees representing the two other contracting governments should be placed in each of the three capitals, it is proposed. Such a committee would add only a few officers and officials to the naval attaches' staff and would not incur any serious additional expenses.

"The naval control investigators should function as bank examiners in America," it was suggested. "They should have access to the navy departments of the government to which they were accredited and should be granted access to all navy yards, factories and other plants where material directly and indirectly connected with warship construction and operation is made."

"The investigators should include experts in the various lines, so that, for instance, one could walk through a motor factory and tell at a glance whether aeroplanes or automobile motors or submarine engines were being manufactured. In visiting ordnance works, the investigators should be able to discern between naval guns and land artillery and in steel works, should be able to recognize armor plate."

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**Armament Delegates Begin to Show Grind Of Strenuous Life**

Washington, Nov. 18.—(By The Associated Press.)—Armament delegates and the many dignitaries and subdignitaries which accompany them are beginning to show the effects of the grind.

Not the grind of work, although that is enough, but the grind of the continuous performance of luncheons, dinners, receptions and late suppers.

Many prominent international indignations have already begun to call for "a holiday." Many snappy and close fitting uniforms are getting closer and less snappy. The telephone girls who jingle the bell and warble "good morning" say the responses are becoming less diplomatic.

It all means that the conference is working full hours and playing overtime and it begins to look as though there might have to be a limitation of entertainment with some sort of a replacement program to be agreed upon later.