


PAGE 3
**FEAR NEUTRAL
ZONE MAY PUT
U.S. INTO WAR**

Panama Declaration Draws Hostile Response From

By LUDWELL DENNY
Times Special Writer

WASHINGTON, Oct. 7.—Fear is growing here that any attempt to enforce the newly declared Pan-American neutrality zone, running from 300 to 700 miles off shore, might draw us into war.

That fear is based partly on the wording of the Declaration of Panama itself, and partly on the immediately hostile response of British and other European quarters. But the chief reason for the alarm here is the refusal of President Roosevelt, Secretary of State Cordell Hull and Under-Secretary Sumner Welles to interpret the meaning of the



There was no sign that Premier Benito Mussolini would seek to make the speech a basis for any Italian initiative, such as had been suggested in Berlin.

undue mile limit, is revolutionary, 2. Adequate enforcement over a 500 square-mile zone is impossible, even if the present American navies were double their size.

3. The Declaration is deliberately vague on virtually every important question raised by its sweeping generalization.

Unanswered Questions

Here are examples of the questions which American officials cannot or will not answer, at least not yet:

Is the Declaration already in force, and if not when does it become effective?

Does it apply to all States bound by it, or is it a trial balloon awaiting undetermined action by the President?

All that Secretary Hull will say is that the Declaration, have been given the belligerents, that our "controlling" fleet will be only for information, and that the belligerents challenge it we will consult with our American associates on the next step.

Study Problem Later

In answer to the many practical questions arising—such as the all-important definition of terms, and the status of the many German and Allied merchant ships, raiders and warships in American harbors or in the vast zone—he says all that will be studied later by a committee.

Even Undersecretary Welles and the State Department's navy, who have assented to the Declaration, apparently are not certain what it means.

Thomas L. Stokes, Scripps-Howard correspondent there, reports:

"It made it clear they realize the importance of the Declaration."

3. Reasonable disarmament, freeing the populations from terror of deadly arms.

Three magazines, the *Warrior*, the *Unlabeled* and the *Empire*, are the most influential newspapers, The London Times and the Manchester Guardian. They refuse to accept an extension of American sea rights beyond the three-mile limit of international law. The Times suggests direct action to enforce the Declaration would be tantamount to war.

But some experts here point out that American enforcement could be used to the advantage of the Allies and against Germany.

In the midst of all this fog, the consensus of guesses in Washington at the moment is that the Declaration covers more bluff than action. But this does not diminish the fear that even this bluffing in waters already used as a war zone by both belligerents may sink our neutrality.

GIVEN TERMS ON MANN ACT CHARGES

Three persons who allegedly snorped 16-year-old girls throughout the Middle West in a "show carnival" today were sentenced to prison terms in Federal Court.

The trio was arrested near Broad, Ind., by Federal officers and charged with violation of the Mann

The second of a series of forums sponsored by the John H. Holliday at 186, American Legion.

prison. All were formerly
in New York.

CONFERENCE, MORMON URGES

SALT LAKE CITY, Oct. 7 (U. P.).—Heber J. Grant, 62-year-old president of the Latter Day Saints church, today called upon European leaders to settle their controversies around a conference table.

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