

PEACE TERMS
BEING DRAFTED

Secrecy of Commission
Assigned by Allies
Poses Problem.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS

Script-News Foreign Editor
LONDON, March 31.—The European advisory commission created by the big three conference in Moscow is now drafting the terms of the armistice. It is doing so in secret. Yet the commission's action will determine to a large extent the whole peace settlement.

The commission by its very terms is only advisory, but that does not lessen its importance. The commission in reality is a sort of steering committee for the coming peace conference and should be so regarded.

This raises the question as to whether the commission's conclusions should be secret. Either its findings are academic and futile, or they are tremendously important to the postwar world. Either the commission is just a gesture or it is laying the foundations for the peace of Europe. If it is the one it can be dispensed with; if the other it should be implemented. It should be given the dignity it rightly deserves as the spearhead of the most important peace conference in the history of Europe.

Duties Vital to Allies

No one suggests that the commission should sit in Trafalgar Square to debate the armistice terms point by point in the open. On the other hand the commission's duties, as defined at the conference of foreign ministers at Moscow, are far too vital to the United Nations to be undertaken as just another one of those things.

The commission's recommendations of course must be referred to the governments concerned.

Although its studies could and should take place behind closed doors, its findings might well be made public.

U. S. Prestige at Stake

It is widely reported here that Secretary Hull and others are working on a postwar collaboration plan not, unlike the old League of Nations, but implemented to make it more effective. Wherever I go I am asked whether America will really collaborate. She didn't last time. Will she this time? Over here American foreign policy is described as vague. That sort of thing is hurting American prestige.

I am convinced America is too tender with the feelings of her allies. They are saying what they think. Unless she says exactly what she thinks, she will be woefully misunderstood later on. If postwar plans go wrong she may find herself again on the spot as she was after the last war. Perhaps the place to begin is by making the European advisory commission a real force in the reconstruction of Europe.

WRITES MAGAZINE STORY
Army Pvt. Ted Lanhman, 1943 Tech graduate, has written an article entitled "Could Be" which appears in the April issue of Air Trails magazine. The article is about a model airplane designed and built by the author.

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