

HOOVER URGES BAN ON BOMBING CITIES

Ex-President Asks Pact Protecting Food Ships, Neutral 'Referees' for War

The text of Herbert Hoover's address is on Page 6.

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CLEVELAND, July 6.—Former President Herbert Hoover proposed tonight that nations agree not to attack food ships in time of war and not to bomb civil populations. He suggested that neutral nations be the "referees," declaring that in the World War the losers lost "by failure to heed the public opinion of what were originally neutral nations."

In an address at the international convention of Christian Endeavor Societies, Mr. Hoover, who headed the Belgium Relief Commission and became United States Food Administrator after we entered the World War, asserted:

"The emotional reaction of the American people upon a conviction of wholesale killing of women and children in another great war would come nearer to driving our people to intervention than all the other arguments in the world."

Mr. Hoover pointed out that "one of the impelling reasons for unceasing building of bombing planes is to prepare reprisals for blockage starving of women and children or reprisals for air attack."

Until these menaces were removed, he said there would be little relief from increasing navies and air fleets and "little decrease in the fear that is driving the world to its own destruction."

"I am going to risk a proposal that might end the worst of it," he said. "My proposal is that all na-

tions who are willing to do so should enter an agreement:

"1. That vessels laden solely with food supplies should be placed upon the same basis of immunity as hospital ships. They should go freely. Blockade should not apply to them. There should be no attack upon their passage by either warships or submarines.

"2. That there shall be no bombing of civil populations and no bombing anywhere except in the field of actual fighting men on land or sea, and at works devoted strictly to munitions.

"Nations who are not willing to enter such obligation will have at least declared their shameful devotion to barbarism. They will be proved outcasts from civilization.

"Now for the moral teeth that I proposed for enforcement. That is the definite participation of neutrals of the world in protection against these barbarities. As a part of such agreement the neutral nations should become the referees announcing in authoritative way any fouls that take place.

Neutral Observers Suggested

"To effect this, such agreement should provide further:

"3. That the shipment of food supplies in war to any blockade nation may be in full cargoes under the management and jurisdiction of a commission of neutral nations.

"4. That neutral observers should be continuously in session within every belligerent country to determine the facts of any killing of civilians from the air."

Mr. Hoover said that for America to voice these ideas on behalf of women and children requires no use of force.

"We possess a great moral power," he added, "and we should use it to save mankind from the barbarities of war. Thereby we will promote peace. In this we will be right at all times."

As to those who doubted the prac-

ticability of the idea of ships moving through blockades, Mr. Hoover recalled that the Belgian Relief Commission delivered more than 2,000 full cargoes of food through two rings of blockade in the World War, this being accomplished by international agreement under neutral management operating continuously for more than four years.

"Incidentally," he said, "on Armistice Day in 1929, I made the part of this proposal relating to the immunity of food ships. It was approved by the leaders in a score of nations. Those nations who did not regard it with favor thought it one-sided. But they now find themselves hideously menaced from the air. The double proposal should now commend itself to those who then thought it one-sided."

He contended that it was only hypocrisy to say that a wartime blockade was directed to the starvation of soldiers, munition workers or government officials, declaring that armies and munition workers were not short of food in blockaded Germany. All over Europe in the World War, he said, women and children died by millions.

Holds Frightfulness Futile

Mr. Hoover pointed out that a part of the methods of modern warfare is the breaking down of the morale and resistance of the civil population at home with the result that war today is a battle of whole peoples who must be mobilized "to the last atom of their economic and emotional strength."

"The killing of women and children haunts every council table and affects every move of power politics," he said. "It drives not alone to armaments. It drives to more and more military alliances that breed war.

"The standard of living, the comfort of all men is today being steadily lowered by this race of armaments. It is the backs of the men and women who toil that carry this load of war preparedness during peace. It is nonsense to say this is paid for by the rich. The pay comes from the productivity of the people. It is breaking the backs of nations today."

Mr. Hoover dismissed as an "old fallacy" the opinion that the prospect of war becoming more terrible

frightens nations into keeping the peace.

"It creates fear, hate and desperation which drives nations to war," he said. "The prospect of the killing of women and children makes war more likely."

Another old fallacy, he went on, was that "the more terrible war is, the quicker the sickened nations will make peace." Pointing out that war has become more terrible every year since the invention of gun powder and that "human courage rises far above any terror yet invented," Mr. Hoover said:

"This same fallacy pretends that putting the screws on the civil population gets war over quicker. Such a policy is thus said to be more humane. The last war proved that starvation and bombing only sharpened and hardened the resolution to continue."