

BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 12th, 1939.

No. 769

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to Your Lordship the text of a speech made on July 6th at Cleveland by Mr. Herbert Hoover, the former President, when addressing the international convention of Christian Endeavour Societies.

2. You will note that Mr. Hoover suggested that in order to minimise the horrors of modern warfare all nations should subscribe to an agreement that -

(1) 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) There should be no bombings 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.

(3) The shipment of food supplies in war to any blockaded nation may be in full cargoes under the management and jurisdiction of a commission of the neutral nations.

4./

The Right Honourable

The Viscount Halifax, K. G.,

etc., etc., etc.

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(4) Neutral observers should be continuously in session to determine the facts of any killing of civilians from the air.

3. Mr. Hoover's proposals have not, as yet, attracted much attention.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,
humble servant,

(For the Ambassador)

(SOD) V. A. L. HALLET