Joint Resolution of the Stresa Conference Including the Anglo-Italian Declaration and the Final Declaration

Stresa, April 14, 1935

Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Parliament by Command of His Majesty

Command 4840
JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SYRIA CONFERENCE, INCLUDING
THE ANGLO-ITALIAN DECLARATION AND THE FINAL
DECLARATION.

Stresa, April 14, 1938.

This Representatives of the Governments of Italy, France and
the United Kingdom have examined at Stresa the general European
situation in the light of the results of the exchange of views which
have taken place in recent weeks of the discussions held on the
13th March by the German Government, and of the information
obtained by British Ministers during the visit recently paid by them
to several European capitals. Having considered the bearing of
these considerations on the interests of their own Governments
respectively in Rome and in London, they find themselves in
complete agreement on the various matters discussed.

1. They agreed upon a common line of conduct to be pursued
in the course of the discussion of the request presented to the

2. The information which they have received has confirmed
their view that the negotiations should be pressed for the develop-
ment which is desired in severity in Eastern Europe.

3. The Representatives of the three Governments examined
thoroughly the Austrian situation.

They confirmed the Anglo-French declaration of the 11th February and the 27th September, 1934, in which the three
Governments recognized that the necessity of maintaining the
independence and integrity of Austria would continue to inspire
their common policy.

Referring to the Franco-Italian protocol of the 7th January, 1934,
and to the Anglo-French declaration of the 2nd February, 1935, in
which the decision was reaffirmed to act together as to the
measures to be taken in the case of threats to the integrity and
independence of Austria, they agreed to recommend that Representa-
tives of all the Governments concerned in the protocol of Rome
should meet at a very early date with a view to continuing the
Central European agreement.

4. As regards the proposal Air Pact for Western Europe, the
Representatives of the three Governments confirmed the principles
and procedures that should be followed as envisaged in the London
convention of the 2nd February, and agreed to continue actively
the study of the question with a view to the drafting of a par
between the five Powers mentioned in the London resolution and of any bilateral agreements which might accompany it.

3. In appraising the problems of armaments, the Representatives of the five Powers reached the London resolution envisaging an agreement to be freely negotiated with Germany to take the place of the relevant clauses of Part V of the Treaty of Versailles, and to contain the future relations of the German Government and the steps furnished by Sir John Hope of his conversations with the German Chancellor on this subject.

It was expressly recognized that the method of unilateral repudiation adopted by the German Government, at a moment when steps were being taken to promote a treaty negotiated settlement of the question of armaments, had undermined public confidence in the security of a peaceful order. Moreover, the magnitude of the declared programme of German rearmament, already well in process of execution, had invalidated the safeguards already upon which efforts for disarmament had hitherto been based and made the hopes by which these efforts were inspired.

The Representatives of the five Powers, nevertheless, reaffirmed their earnest desire to maintain peace by establishing a sense of security, and declared for themselves that they remain united in the necessary effort for promoting international agreement on the limitation of armaments.

6. The Representatives of the five Governments took into consideration the draft expressed by the States, whose military status was respectively determined by the Treaties of St. Germain, Trianon and Versailles, to obtain the revision of this status. They decided that the other States concerned should be informed of this desire through the diplomatic channel.

They agreed to recommend to the other States concerned to examine this question with a view to the settlement by mutual agreement within the framework of general and regional guarantees of security.

Anglo-American Declaration.

The following joint Declaration was made by the Representatives of Italy and the United Kingdom in reference to the Treaty of London—

The Representatives of Italy and of the United Kingdom, the Powers which participate in the Treaty of London only in the capacity of guarantors, formally restitute all their obligations under that Treaty, and declare their intention, should the need arise, faithfully to fulfill them.

It appears as the two Powers have entered into these obligations in relation to all other parties to the Treaty of London, this joint declaration, which has been made at the Stresa Conference in
which France is participating, will also be formally communicated to the Governments of Germany and Belgium.

Final Declaration.

The three Powers, the object of whose policy is the collective maintenance of peace within the framework of the League of Nations, find themselves in complete agreement in opposing, by all practical means, any collateral negotiation of treaties which may endanger the peace of Europe, and will act in close and concerted collaboration for this purpose.