

MEMORANDUM FOR PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

You will perhaps recollect that when I notified you in Albany of your election to the Academie Diplomatique Internationale, I said that the Great War had brought about a revolution in diplomacy as well as in many other world relations. Ambassadors no longer, as before the War, in many instances were the personal representatives of sovereigns whose decisions controlled the actions of their representatives in policies looking to peace or war, and when even in democratic countries such as France and England, foreign offices controlled international relations largely in secret. Since the War, diplomats represent governments controlled by their legislatures and these in turn are greatly influenced by the public opinion in their respective countries. The telegraph, the radio which enables mankind to hear voices from all about the world, and a press which reports important events from everywhere, is building a public opinion which more and more influences governments and hence its agents. These changing incidents of sovereignty have not left unaffected even the late dictatorships which also seek, by speeches and propaganda, to influence their own public opinion. It is this change in diplomatic relations that led to the establishment of the Academie Diplomatique Internationale made up of a body of experts and today the membership of the Academie consists of eleven Presidents of Republics, seventy Prime Ministers and Ministers of Foreign Affairs, thirty Heads of other Ministeries, four hundred Ambassadors and Ministers whose knowledge and experience is drawn upon for the promulgation of principles and drafting of formulas to guide the nations in their reciprocal relations so that a world order may be established founded on a basis of peace and justice. You, yourself, noted as you said to me, the

remarkable work of the Dictionnaire Diplomatique compiled by the Academie after seven years of work. Its monthly meetings provide a forum for the discussion of such questions as the codification of international law; minorities - a burning question in some parts of Europe - the problems of the Pacific; the World Court, the organization of peace especially by the League of Nations; International Treaties; freedom of the seas; the Briand-Kellogg Pact, etc, etc.

Because of this change of the incidents of sovereignty that I have mentioned, it becomes of the highest import that every effort should be made to inform this public opinion which is often ignorant, which is apt to be emotional and which is often governed by slogans and it was because of this necessity, especially in this country, which is no longer isolated, that such bodies as the Council of Foreign Relations and the Foreign Policy Association were formed which seek to build up an informed public opinion in Foreign Affairs but an American Branch of the Academie could have a more powerful influence on public opinion if established in Washington, for there it would be at the seat of power and could spread the knowledge of international questions among the members of Congress and highly intelligent press representatives of our great newspapers. If the monthly meetings held in Paris could be duplicated in Washington, it should be understood that all members of Congress were invited to these meetings which should be held at a time convenient for members to attend. In other words, the Washington Branch would be a great educational body possessing, because of its membership, a wide authority.

and the greater the interest that could be awakened among members of Congress in our foreign relations, and the more accurate their knowledge of these questions, the greater could be their influence in their own constituencies and this influence would be more effectual on their own public opinion than influences from any other source. Moreover, such a Branch would be of great aid to the President, not only in the formulation of policies, because of the information it could give him of public opinion and sentiment in other countries but also could greatly aid him in the carrying out of such policies, and due to its membership, it could interpret in the different countries the purposes of the policies proclaimed and the reasons therefor. Moreover, the coming to this country of men of the highest authority in their own countries would give them an understanding of our American situation and view points and the knowledge thus acquired would greatly aid a sympathetic comprehension of ourselves among the people of foreign lands. We have become a nation of such immense power that it is easy to conceive of Washington becoming the great international center of a world order, and its President a great international leader of the effort, which is at the heart of all man's desire, to establish the principle of the "good neighbor" and a world order based on peace and justice.

Respectfully yours,

FREDERICK H. ALLEN.