

**LON**

**League of Nations**

**Historical Committee**

**MSMUN 2025**

**Chair:**

Pedro González

Amelia Toro

**Official language:**

English

**Topic:**

*The Dawes Plan*

**MSMUN External Model 2025**

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# 1. Letter from the Chair

*“The most basic question is not what is best, but who shall decide what is best.” –Thomas Sowell*

Dearest delegates,

With great pleasure, we—Pedro González and Amelia Toro—extend a warm welcome to MSMUN 2025 and the League of Nations historical committee. First, we thank you for choosing the League of Nations as your committee of preference this year.

On this occasion, you will have the chance to do the unthinkable. With the opportunity to rewrite history regarding one of the most pressing issues of the 1920s—the financial reparation of the Weimar Republic—we are thrilled about having you take part in this committee. Through the lens of living the restoration plan as it goes on, you have the opportunity to change the trajectory of not only Europe but also the entire globe. Therefore, we invite you to play the role of your nation as best as possible, so this can be a fruitful debate and experience for us all. Always remember that learning about our past is essential to building the pathway to a better future, and what better way to comprehend it than reliving history as it happened?

As your presidents, we have high expectations from the committee, but we most certainly believe you’ll achieve and exceed them. You can always count on us to provide anything you need, so do not hesitate to contact us at any time. Be prepared, but most importantly, be ready to remake history and have fun!

Our warmest regards,

Pedro González

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**Presidents of the League of Nations**

## 2. Introduction to the Committee

### 2.1. *History*

The League of Nations—the main predecessor to the UN—was an international organization established for cooperation in January 1920 by the Allied powers' initiative following World War I's end. At the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, considering the severe circumstances and the critical situation of Europe as a whole, the President of the United States at the time, Woodrow Wilson, specifically insisted that one of the first issues to be addressed was the hindsight of WWI. Therefore, a general agreement was established to create an international organization capable of ensuring peace in the long term. At the time, creating such an entity required the consideration of factors such as socioeconomic cooperation, open diplomacy, collective security, disarmament, and arbitration, which were vital factors to be considered in this process (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2024a).

Another key element in the creation of the league was the Fourteen Points. Proposed by Woodrow Wilson, there were 14 proposals that he presented to the US Congress in 1918. Such concepts served as an outline of a strong global order, free trade, evacuation of distinct territories, free navigation across waters, adjustment of borders, and most importantly, *the establishment of the League of Nations*. However, most of these proposals were disregarded in the negotiations for the Treaty of Versailles. Consequently, Germany was highly unsatisfied with the product of the treaty. Another repercussion of the Paris Peace Conference was the mass disavowal of the creation of the League, even reaching an extreme where the United States Senate stopped American participation in the organization while also diminishing President Wilson's so-called efforts and vision for international cooperation. (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2024b).

## ***2.2. Purpose***

The Covenant of the League of Nations bound the Member States to try to settle the disputes peacefully. By joining the League, Member States renounced secret diplomacy, committed to reducing their armaments, and complied with international law. Each pledged to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of all members of the League. By establishing a bond of solidarity between Member States, the League is considered the first attempt to build a system of collective security, relying on the principle that an aggressor against any Member State should be considered an aggressor against all Member States.

The League of Nations was also in charge of supervising the Mandate system, which were former German colonies and Ottoman territories that were placed under the tutelage of mandatory powers until they could become independent states. Some articles referred to the role of the League in promoting international cooperation in areas such as health, drug trafficking, transit, freedom of communications, and human trafficking. The efforts paved the way for the creation of some United Nations entities, such as Specialized Agencies and UN Funds and Programmes.

Image taken from Waxman (2019).

Some responsibilities were assigned to the League by other international organizations, such as the peace treaties signed in Paris. The League



supervised the Saar territory until a vote was conducted to determine its future. The League also supervised the execution of the minority accords and the drafting of the Free City of Danzig's constitution (United Nations, n.d.-b).

### **2.3. Committee Procedure**

To better understand the League of Nations' functions, its Covenant is a crucial item to overview. To find the document, refer to **3.7. Useful Resources**. One essential article from the Covenant delegates must be taken into consideration—especially when negotiations throughout the debate fail—in Article 16:

*“Should any Member of the League resort to war in disregard of its covenants under Articles 12, 13 or 15, it shall **ipso facto** be deemed to have committed an act of war against all other Members of the League, which hereby undertake immediately to subject it to the severance of all trade or financial relations, the prohibition of all intercourse between the nationals and the nationals of the covenant-breaking State, and the prevention of all financial, commercial, or personal intercourse between the nationals of the covenant-breaking State and the nationals of any other State, whether a Member of the League or not.”* (United Nations, n.d.-a)

At MSMUN 2025, the League of Nations will function as a normal committee. There will be a roll call, opening speeches will be read, motions will be voted, the caucus can be held as moderated or unmoderated, et cetera. However, there are two key components to the committee that delegates must know before the model. They are as follows:

- **Crisis Updates:** Tailor-made by the chair and the crisis agent for the sole purpose of following the current state of the committee and its actions. They are based on the directives that delegates send to the chair, while also considering a suitable timeframe in order to advance with the restoration plan. There could be more than one update per day.
- **Directives:** Similar to Joint Crisis Committees (GAC in Spanish), actions will be made through directives. Delegates must follow the format found in **2.4. Execution Guidelines**.

## ***2.4. Execution Guidelines***

See the directive template here. Directives are a detailed way of describing the measures distinct representatives are to take throughout the debate. They are the main method of communication between delegates and the chair regarding their action plan and what they want to implement, whether it is as individuals or in groups. There are two different types of directives:

- **Private:** Mostly used for individual actions. However, more than one delegate can sign a private directive. Only the sender(s) and the chair will be aware of the contents of the directive. They tend to be sent for actions that few delegates know of, or rather, actions that are entirely confidential; moreover, private directives do not have to be voted on by the committee to be approved. However, they are left to the discretion of the chair as to whether or not the contents of the directive are viable. Use with caution; considering that members of the League of Nations have renounced secret diplomacy if the entire committee is knowledgeable of a delegate's actions through private directives that breach the Covenant, other delegates may deem it an act of war, and further repercussions could be expected. See the example here.
- **Public:** Mostly used for group measures and actions. Public directives can be signed by two or more delegates or even the entire committee. The entire committee must vote on the actions proposed by public directives, and they pass by a simple majority (50%+1). They tend to be measures that are favorable for a significant number of members of the committee. See the example here.

### 3. Topic A: The Dawes Plan

#### 3.1. *Introduction to the Topic*

After the First World War, European powers urged the now-defeated Germany and its allies to compensate for the damage and devastation caused throughout the 4-year conflict. Germany, unable to agree to the amount to be paid, a Reparation Commission was issued by France, the United States, the United Kingdom, and other allies to aid indebted Germany in



stabilizing the country and recuperating economically, enabling it to pay the agreed 132 billion gold marks (approximately \$31.5 billion USD).

Designed by Charles G. Dawes, the plan established gradual payments. The first payment would be 1 billion gold marks and would increase to 2.5 billion marks

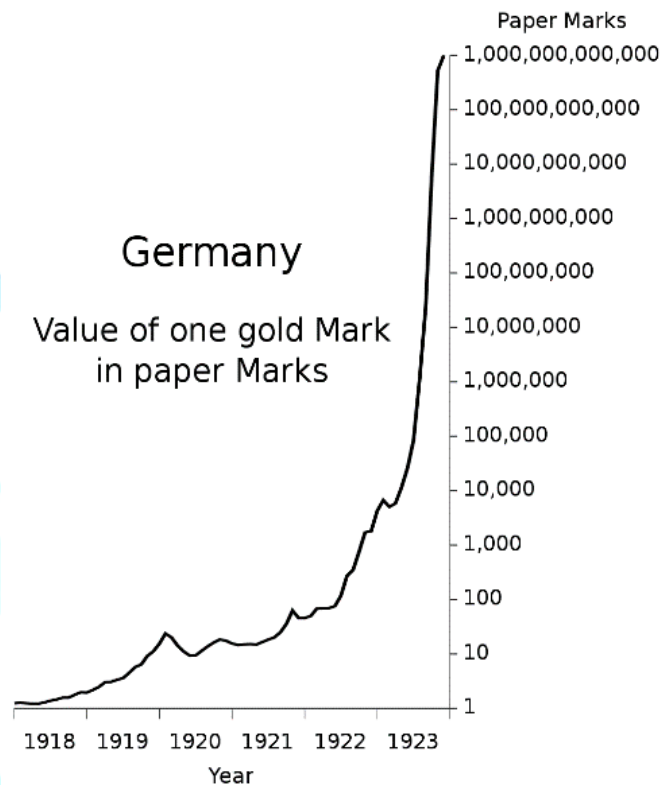
by 1928. Furthermore, the United States loaned out significant amounts, nearing \$800 million, to aid Germany's recovery and the restructuring of the Reichsbank (Office of the Historian, n.d.).

This period is known in history as the golden years of the Weimar Republic, where cultural flourishing and growth in the industrial sector are to be noted. However, the grass isn't always greener on the other side, as the main fact is that with the multiple loans received from other countries, Germany was heavily reliant on that financing plan. This would subsequently lead to vulnerabilities in the economic systems of not only the United States but also of many countries across the globe, otherwise described as the Great Depression.



### 3.2. Theoretical Framework

❖ **Papiermark:** Currency of Germany from 1914 to 1923 with the symbol *ℳ*. Originally valued at 4.2ℳ per US Dollar during its creation, it devaluated heavily in 1923, reaching a valuation of over 1,000,000,000,000ℳ per US Dollar, or rather, an inflation of 23,809,500,000,000% (Nagasundaram, 2021).



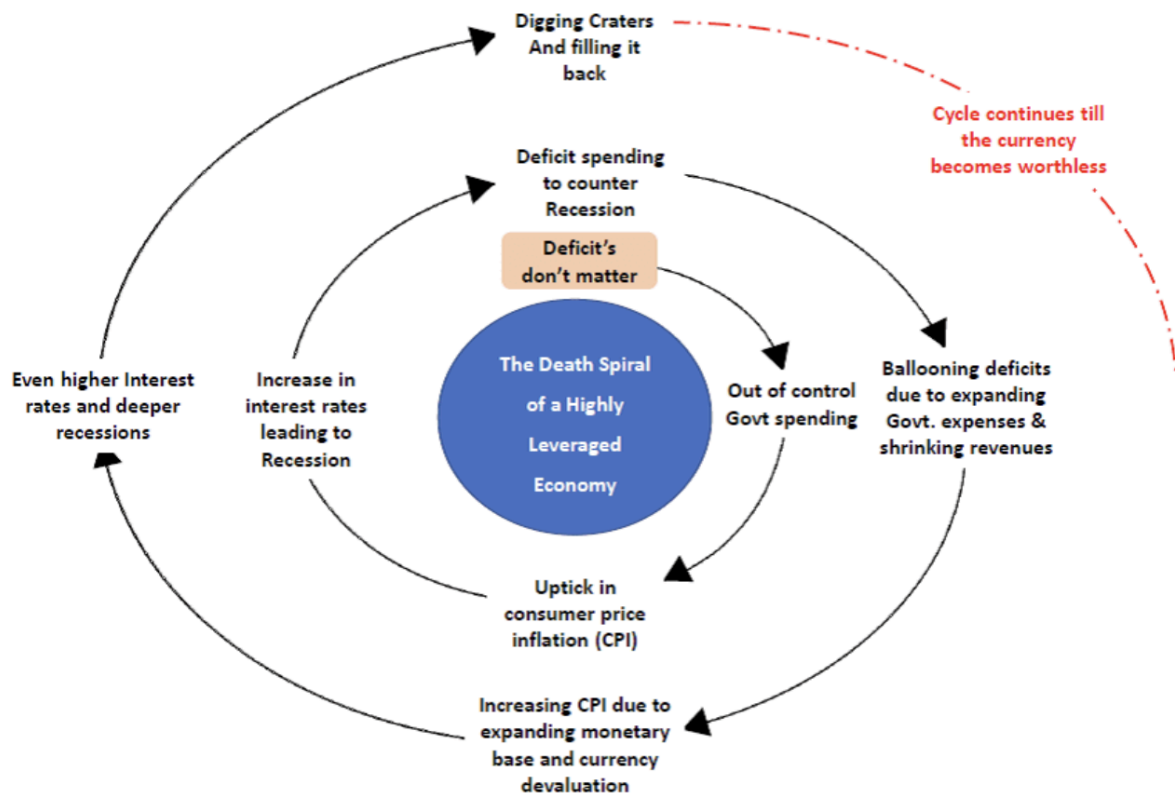
➤ A key element when studying inflation is the percentage increase formula:

$$\blacksquare \% \text{ Increase of } X = \frac{(\text{Future Value} - \text{Present Value})}{\text{Present Value}} \cdot 100$$

Image taken from Soloway (2024)

- ❖ **Treaty of Versailles:** A peace treaty signed in 1919 that formally ended World War I, imposing heavy sanctions, reparations, as well as territorial losses on Germany. Set the stage for the economic challenges of the 1920s.
- ❖ **Reparations:** Payments imposed on Germany as the product of the Treaty of Versailles with the intention to compensate the Allied powers for the damages caused by WWI. The Dawes Plan seeks to make these reparations more tractable for the debtor.

- ❖ **Hyperinflation:** A severe economic crisis that is characterized by a rapid increment in prices and a heavy plummet on Germany's currency's value and purchasing power.
- ❖ **Weimar Republic:** Democratic government that was established in Germany post-WWI. Faced very severe challenges in its socioeconomic development.
- ❖ **Reichsbank:** German central bank that was restructured under the Dawes Plan to ensure better financial control over the country, as well as facilitating the stabilization of Germany's currency.
- ❖ **Young Plan:** Subsequent agreement signed in 1929 for further revision of the obligations of reparation for Germany, making very significant changes in the process (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1998).
- ❖ **Economic Recovery:** Involves the resurgence of an economy following a period of recession. In this particular case, the period of economic recovery is considered the "Golden Years" for the Weimar Republic from 1924 to 1929 (BBC, 2023).
- ❖ **Gold Standard:** An economic system where the value of a currency is attached to the value of gold. It was used in an attempt to restabilize the value of the Papiermark and further German currencies that were heavily devalued during hyperinflation. Ultimately, this effort was not successful, and the Papiermark did not return to the Gold Standard.
- ❖ **Inflationary Spiral:** A continuous rise in prices for basic resources and consequently the cost of living as a whole. It prompts major wage demands that go along with the price increases, as well as many other factors seen in the graph below (Nagasundaram, 2021).



Graph 3

Image taken from Nagasundaram (2021).

- ❖ **Foreign Investment:** When a foreign country or investor decides to invest its capital in foreign entities, such as stocks, commodities, or the economy as a whole.
- ❖ **Economic Dependency:** Situation when a business or country is heavily reliant on foreign investment through financial aid and/or loans.
- ❖ **Economic Diplomacy:** The use of financial instruments and negotiations to fulfill goals regarding foreign policy.
- ❖ **International Financial System:** A global framework that manages all sorts of monetary relations between countries. Includes investment, exchange rates for currencies, trade, etc.

### ***3.3. Antecedents***

World War I, otherwise known as the Great War, was the main precedent to the restoration plan. Its inception is largely due to the assassination of the heir of the throne of Austria-Hungary, Archduke Franz Ferdinand. This, in turn, fueled a set of declarations that incited war. Furthermore, historians argue that three main reasons drove the international community into what they consider a first-ever global conflict (Imperial War Museums, n.d.).

Image taken from Boldorf (2021).

For starters, multiple shifts in the global order following the Napoleonic Wars were harmful, and European powerhouses did their best to avoid conflicts with each other. Britain, on the other



hand, was one of the strongest—if not the strongest—empires in the world due to its naval and economic capacities in the years leading up to the 1800s. Then came the rapid growth of Germany and the United States thanks to industrialization, which consequently had a competitive advantage over Britain, which suffered from the massive costs of maintaining such an ample fleet.

Germany, on the other hand, only became a powerhouse when Minister President of Prussia Otto von Bismarck unified more than 30 independent states that were related via their culture and similar language. Similar to the US, industrialization rapidly made Germany rise to the top nations worldwide, demonstrating such purchasing power parity by acquiring several African colonies. With von Bismarck doing his best efforts to maintain peace, much of this was

undone by Wilhelm II, Germany's last Emperor. He was very vocal about his vision of German supremacy, not only economically but also in the military aspect. Such were his ambitions that he devoted most of Germany's funds to military spending to compete toe-to-toe with the British. Such actions consequently brought an arms race across Europe, therefore causing an imbalance in power (Hoyer, 2024).

Moreover, the rise of nationalism in Europe generated even more competition between European nations, with each of them trying to overtake each other in any possible area. The unification of nations such as Britain, France, and Germany was taken to severe extremes. Finally, many alliance networks across Europe served as a method to promise collective security, but these would prove to be inconsistent as WWI broke out (Council on Foreign Relations, n.d.).

### ***3.4. Historical Context***

The Reparation Commission was made up of representatives from Belgium, England, France, Italy, Japan, and the United States in an unofficial manner, as the US had not yet ratified the Treaty of Versailles. The commission intended to keep the currency stable and the budgets consistent, adopt a new currency, reorganize Berlin under international supervision, and evacuate Ruhr. Accepted by both Germany and the Allies, the plan began with a starting amount of 1 billion gold marks in the first year and increased to 2.5 billion marks by 1928 (Office of the Historian, 1921). Additionally, it included the reorganization of the Reichsbank and a starting loan of 800 million marks. By 1929, it was believed that the Dawes Plan could be removed and total reparations could be fixed, leading to the Young Plan (Office of the Historian, n.d.). With growing inflation for Germany's Papiermark, German Minister of Foreign Affairs Gustav

Stresemann created the Rentenmark, a new currency that was linked to the gold standard. 1 Rentenmark was equivalent to 1 trillion Papiermark.

Together with the unusual introduction of foreign loans, the Dawes Plan helped facilitate the stabilization and growth of the German economy. This aided in the creation of new public buildings such as hospitals and schools. Improvements in working conditions could also be seen, with wages improving and working hours decreasing in the process. However, there were still various problems that needed to be fixed. Unemployment rates remained extremely high, as 2 million people were unemployed in 1926 and 1.3 million in 1928. Additionally, the farming sector was taking longer than expected to recover from the financial distress of the war, with wages in rural and agricultural areas significantly lower than those found in large cities and towns. Furthermore, Germany was now in a state of economic dependency on foreign loans, which had a very abrupt cash flow. Unfortunately, all of this would come to an end with the Wall Street Crash of 1929 (Yemul, 2024).

Image taken from Baldwin (2011).

The Wall Street Crash took place from October 24th to 29th, 1929. The stock market crash pushed the stock market value higher than the real value. Shortly afterward, products were cheaper. As a result, panic sales went up. By November, the market had lost half of its value. Due to the interconnection of the world economies through international trade, the Wall Street Crash brought in a global depression. The US called in its loans as a result of the



worldwide depression and the domestic financial crisis. Germany was dependent on investments and loans from abroad. As mentioned before, they had utilized these to invest in new hospitals, businesses, and schools as well as to restore their economy following the war and the hyperinflation issue, causing Germany yet another financial turbulence when the US withdrew this funding (The Holocaust Explained, n.d.-a).

### ***3.5. Current Situation***

After 1919, the Paris Peace Conference ended as a result of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, which imposed very significant and perhaps—too harsh—sanctions on Germany to pay the reparations of war. However, by 1924, it has become clear that Germany cannot meet these payments without causing the further economic collapse of the nation and social unrest, which as a result threatens the fragile peace trying to be achieved in Europe. The League of Nations has gathered to discuss the Dawes Plan, designed to restructure Germany's reparation payments and stabilize its economy, to aid in the payments and the restoration of Europe.

### ***3.6. Possible Outcomes***

#### ***1. Short-Term Financial Recovery through Dependency on Foreign Loans and Cultural Development***

Given that significant amounts of foreign investment were taking place during the plan's course of action, it left multiple loopholes in the process that would consequently make Germany vulnerable if, given the case the US economy faced downshifts, or if banks recalled their loans, Germany might as well have entered another hyperinflation spiral crisis for a second time. Since this was not the case, the influx of money helped alleviate the gravity of the situation and hence

opened the door for a rebuild in Germany's industrial sector. Moreover, the Weimar Republic prospered during these years, seeing significant milestones in art, science, literature, and philosophy. Had it been sustained with continuous economic stability in Germany, perhaps Europe as a whole could have caught on to this renaissance.

## ***2. Further Economic Turbulence Worldwide***

Given the high dependency on foreign investment, especially from US bankers, the \$800 million dollar loan was mainly used for the aforementioned rebuild of the industrial sector and its bases. The unsustainable management of such funds only allowed the fruition of such capital to boost economic output and job creation to a limited extent. The plan only served as a short-term alleviation for the resources needed for reparation post-WWI, and the mismanagement of funds led to increased fragility economically and, therein, the Great Depression.

## ***3. The Rise of Nationalism***

While the economy was stabilized to some degree, social unrest persisted during the Golden Years of the Weimar Republic. Consistent unemployment and social inequality were pressing issues that were left without a solution,



causing potential further unrest in the people and could have concluded in more protests against the government. At the same time, the rise of Nationalism by part of right-wing politicians who saw the plan as a mere 'humiliation' on Germany and as a sign of the times when foreign control over German affairs would come to occur—a trifling foreshadowing of what would happen after WWII. Resentment by members of the NSDAP—the nationalist socialist party—could



potentially have been the drive for the rise of more extreme parties across Europe who sought to capitalize on the public's inconformities with the Weimar government.

### ***3.7. Useful Resources***

Covenant of the League of Nations.

<https://www.ungeneva.org/en/about/league-of-nations/covenant>

Hyperinflation of the Weimar Republic.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z9y64j6/revision/5>

Explanation of the Economic Recovery of the Weimar Republic.

<https://www.savemyexams.com/gcse/history/edexcel/18/revision-notes/weimar-and-nazi-germany-1918-1939/the-golden-age-of-weimar-germany/economic-recovery-of-the-weimar-republic-1923-29/>

Overview, Causes, and Effects of the Great Depression.

[https://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/great\\_depression.asp](https://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/great_depression.asp)

The Weimar Republic.

<https://www.theholocaustexplained.org/the-nazi-rise-to-power/the-weimar-republic/stresemann-dawes/>

### ***3.8. Expectations for the Debate***

As your chair during MSMUN 2025, we highly encourage delegates to assume the role of their nations and look after their respective interests in the best way possible. You are presented with an unmatched opportunity to dictate the future of the world as we know it, as well as being able to stand out and make a difference in this alternative timeline presented in this historical committee. The success or failure—be that as it may—of the plan and the financial

restoration of Germany and the world alike wholly depends on your participation and interest in changing the trajectory of the League of Nations and making it a successful entity after all.

#### **4. QARMAS**

1. What role does your representative hold in the plan?
2. Does your representative fully agree with the plan? Why or why not?
3. During the development of such, did your representative play an important role?
4. Was your representative's nation directly affected by the plan? How so?
5. Did your representative or nation directly gain from the plan?
6. Would your representative propose a different action plan? Briefly explain what alternatives are available and how—hypothetically—one would implement them in the grand scheme.
7. What conditions would your representative impose to solidify the German economy?
8. Would your representative believe social aspects are also a necessity to consider when discussing the development of the German economy?
9. What is your representative's stance on international cooperation?
10. Describe the professional background of your representative.

## 5. Delegation List

- ❖ Ignaz Seipel, Chancellor of Austria
- ❖ Georges Theunis, Prime Minister of Belgium
- ❖ William Lyon Mackenzie, Prime Minister of Canada
- ❖ Antonín Švehla, Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia
- ❖ Thorvald Stauning, Prime Minister of Denmark
- ❖ Alexandre Millerand, Prime Minister of France
- ❖ Wilhelm Marx, Chancellor of Germany (as guest)
- ❖ Gustav Stresemann, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany (as guest)
- ❖ István Bethlen, Prime Minister of Hungary
- ❖ Benito Mussolini, Prime Minister of Italy
- ❖ Kiyoura Keigo, Prime Minister of Japan
- ❖ Johan Ludwig Mowinckel, Prime Minister of Norway
- ❖ Stanisław Wojciechowski, President of Poland
- ❖ Manuel Teixeira Gomes, President of Portugal
- ❖ Jan Smuts, Prime Minister of South Africa
- ❖ Alexei Rykov, Premier of the Soviet Union
- ❖ Miguel Primo de Rivera, Prime Minister of Spain
- ❖ Gustaf V, King of Sweden
- ❖ Ernest Chuard, President of Switzerland
- ❖ Charles Ruijs de Beerenbrouck, Prime Minister of the Netherlands
- ❖ Kemal Atatürk, Prime Minister of Turkey
- ❖ Ramsay MacDonald, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- ❖ Calvin Coolidge, President of the United States (as guest)
- ❖ Charles G. Dawes, Vice-President of the United States (as guest)
- ❖ Alexander I, King of Yugoslavia

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