

tions at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919. The Heads of Delegations was the name given to the Supreme Council of the Peace Conference in the form it assumed after the signing of the Treaty with Germany, June 28, 1919, and the departure from Paris of President Wilson and Prime Minister Lloyd George.

The records here contained are concerned with such matters as the negotiations for completing the treaties with Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey; with the necessary steps for carrying out the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles, and with many political and economic problems as they developed in war-torn Europe.

Included also in Volume IX are the minutes of those sessions of the International Council of Premiers, held at London and Paris in December, 1919, and January, 1920, at which the United States was represented by an observer, and the minutes of the three meetings of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held at Paris on January 10, 13, and 21, 1920, at two of which the United States had an observer. These bodies may also be considered as manifestations of the Supreme Council of the Peace Conference. Business not completed by these bodies was dealt with by the Conference of Ambassadors.

The release of these volumes completes the publication of the minutes of the Supreme Council of the Paris Peace Conference of 1919 in its several phases as the Council of Ten, the Council of Four, and the Heads of Delegations. The volumes containing these minutes were compiled in the former Division of Research and Publication by a staff consisting of James S. Beddie, Morrison B. Griffen, John W. Foley, Jr., and Matilda F. Axton, under the direction of E. Wilder Spaulding, chief of that division, and E. R. Perkins, editor of the *Foreign Relations* series.

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Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States, 1931.

Volumes I and II. [Department of State, Publications 2602 and 2657.] (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1946. Pp. cix, 961; cxvi, 1082. \$2.75, \$3.00.)

With the publication of these two volumes, the Department of State has made public an impressive body of diplomatic correspondence and memoranda covering the challenging year 1931, Volume III (devoted exclusively to the Far East) having been issued some months in advance of Volumes I and II.

The year 1931 was a period not of one but of many crises in which the rapid deterioration in world economic affairs tended as the months ad-

vanced to overshadow specific diplomatic problems, some of long standing, and all of which were dangerous enough in themselves quite apart from the threatened collapse of the world's economy. The increasing importance of economic problems subordinated the Chaco and the Polish Corridor disputes and even conditioned the approach of the United States and other powers toward the so-called Manchurian incident. Early in 1931 it was expected in the United States that the major diplomatic effort of the year would be centered in the preparations for the General Disarmament Conference which was to convene at Geneva in February, 1932. The diplomatic correspondence here presented is a nice commentary on the struggle between the dictates of economy and the ambitions of undisciplined and nervous nationalism.

In Latin-American relations the United States was attempting to create an atmosphere of friendship and confidence at a time when many of the republics to the south were torn by political dissension and revolution. Much light is thrown on the Machado regime in Cuba and on the revolutionary carryings-on in Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, and Peru. Steps were also being taken to terminate our long intervention in Haiti and in Nicaragua. Of greatest interest in this connection, however, is the correspondence which details the effects of the economic depression on the financial plight of the Dominican Republic, its efforts to secure financial assistance in the United States, and the concern of the State Department to protect the Dominican Republic, hard-pressed for money, from making irresponsible commitments to private American companies. There was also the concern of the Department as to the purposes to which prospective loan funds would be devoted. There appeared to be complete agreement between the Department and the Dominican Legation that this was not the time for building "a nice statue" or even "a memorial lighthouse."

Considered as a whole, the three massive volumes (they total three thousand printed pages) covering our diplomatic affairs during 1931 are a tribute to the capable editing of the staff, including E. Wilder Spaulding, E. R. Perkins, Victor J. Farrar, John Gilbert Reid, William F. Cargo, G. A. Nueremberger, and W. R. Willoughby. It is regrettable but none the less the inevitable conclusion which comes from a reading of these pages that neither the Department of State nor the American people was prepared in 1931 to provide effective direction in a world beset by crises of the first magnitude.

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