

afterwards of the decisions reached. On the other hand, not only current affairs, but also matters of great political significance, in which, as in the question of Asia Minor, Russia is directly interested, were discussed at the aforementioned conferences.

Apparently, negotiations of equal importance between the governments of France, Great Britain, and the United States are soon to take place in Washington, in which, as has already been announced and revealed in the press, it is the intention to discuss world politics.

The fact that we are not taking part in these negotiations and are even unacquainted about the subject matter of the forthcoming conferences may produce a very unfavourable impression on public opinion here and even give rise to undesirable rumours of strife and discord among the Allies.

Please talk with the Minister of Foreign Affairs in a confidential and friendly manner on the matters mentioned above and telegraph the results.

MILYUKOV

(b) MILYUKOV'S NOTE OF 18 APRIL*

On 18 April, the Minister of Foreign Affairs instructed the Russian representatives with the Allied Powers to transmit the following note to the Governments to which they are accredited:

'On 27 March of the present year, the Provisional Government issued a declaration to the citizens, containing the views of the Government of free Russia regarding the aims of the present war. The Minister of Foreign Affairs has instructed me to communicate to you the contents of the document referred to, and to make at the same time the following comments:

'Our enemies have been striving of late to sow discord among the Allies, disseminating absurd reports alleging that Russia is ready to conclude a separate peace with the Central Powers. The text of the attached document will most effectively refute such falsehoods. You will note from the same that the general principles enunciated by the Provisional Government are in entire agreement with those lofty ideas which have been constantly expressed, up to the very last moment, by eminent statesmen in the Allied countries, and which were given especially vivid expression in the

* From *Rech*, 20 April 1917.

declaration of the president of our new Ally, the great republic across the Atlantic.

'The Government under the old régime was, of course, incapable of grasping and sharing these ideas of the liberating character of the war, the establishment of a firm basis for the amicable existence of the nations, of self-determination for oppressed peoples, and so forth. Emancipated Russia, however, can now speak in a language that will be comprehensible to the leading democracies of our own time, and she now hastens to add her voice to those of her Allies. Imbued with this new spirit of a free democracy, the declaration of the Provisional Government cannot, of course, afford the least excuse for the assumption that the revolution has entailed any slackening on the part of Russia in the common struggle of the Allies. Quite to the contrary, the aspiration of the entire nation to carry the world war to a decisive victory has grown more powerful, thanks to our understanding of our common responsibility, shared by each and every one. This striving has become still more active, since it is concentrated upon the task which touches all and is urgent – the task of driving out the enemy who has invaded our country. It is obvious, as stated in the communicated document, that the Provisional Government, while safeguarding the rights of our own country, will, in every way, observe the obligations assumed towards our Allies.

'Continuing to cherish the firm conviction of the victorious issue of the present war, in full accord with our Allies, the Provisional Government feels also absolutely certain that the problems which have been raised by this war will be solved in a spirit that will afford a firm basis for lasting peace, and that the leading democracies, inspired by identical desires, will find the means to obtain those guarantees and sanctions which are indispensable for the prevention of sanguinary conflicts in the future.'

(c) THE SOVIET CALLS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST
CONFERENCE, 25 APRIL*

At the session of the Executive Committee on April 25, the following resolution was adopted:

1. The Executive Committee of the Soviet of Workers' and

* From *Izvestiya*, 27 April 1917.