

by the aforesaid Conference. The present declaration shall not be made public."

In this manner, the Russian Government hoped to preserve a certain freedom of action in the future without declaring itself openly against the resolution which, in fact, did not meet the interests of Russia. The new proposal led to nothing and the question whether or not the Russian Government would sanction the program of the post-war economic struggle was left open. The outbreak of the Revolution diverted the attention of the Russian Government and public opinion from the problem of the post-war economic struggle. But even in western Europe the work started by the Paris Conference seems to have made little progress in the course of the following years. Only at the time of the drafting of the economic provisions of the Peace Treaty were the ideas which inspired the Economic Conference revived. Russia, however, did not take part in the preparation of the Peace Treaty, and therefore the Conference of Paris for her remained an episode which brought no practical results.

The negative attitude of Russia toward the ideas of a post-war economic struggle deserves to be recorded. It is in harmony with the general and fundamental understanding in Russia of the principle of economic war. Supported by no legal theory and guided solely by considerations of expediency and opportunism, the economic policy of Russia was not elevated to the status of a real system or a real doctrine. It is not surprising that the same considerations of expediency prevented her acceptance of economic war as a principle of post-war economic policy.