

# Allies' Resolution Confirmed By Chamberlain and Daladier At Secret Council in France

(By FERDINAND KUHN.)

(Special Cable to The New York Times and The Globe and Mail.)

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London, Sept. 12.—History rolled back twenty-one years today when Premier Chamberlain flew to France for an unheralded but momentous meeting of the Supreme Council of the Western Allies.

It was not so much a new departure as a continuation of those famous sessions at Versailles in 1917 and 1918 when the leaders of the World War Allies met periodically to shape the defeat of Germany. Now, as then, there were British troops on the soil of France—again

under the supreme command of a French soldier for the duration of the war.

Today, in fact, the British and French were just picking up the threads of their old co-operation, although new men and new problems were involved.

Mr. Chamberlain returned safely tonight in a Royal Air Force plane after his first wartime journey from England and his first flight abroad since his fateful trip to Munich last September. It had been a bumpy flight for him, with a high wind and low-hanging clouds most of the way, but tomorrow this tireless man of 70 will be in his place

in the House of Commons, ready to report on the course of the war.

## Meeting Place Undisclosed.

The official announcement of the Ministry of Information tonight did not disclose the place of the meeting. All it said was the following:

"A meeting of the Supreme War Council was held today, Tuesday, on French soil. It was attended by Mr. Chamberlain and Lord Chatfield, the Minister for the Co-Ordination of Defense for Great Britain, and by Monsieur Daladier and General Gamelin, Chief of the National Defense Staff for France.

"The purpose of the meeting was to make possible a direct personal exchange of views of the present situation and on the measures to be taken in the immediate future.

"The meeting has fully confirmed the firm resolve of Great Britain and France to devote their entire strength and resources to the waging of the conflict which has been forced upon them, and to give all possible assistance to their Polish ally who is resisting with so much gallantry the ruthless invasion of her country."

At least three considerations stand out from the statement which

will be a landmark in the history of the present war. The first is that the present council simply follows the old World War pattern, although the Versailles council of 1918 was larger, with the inclusion of Italy and the United States among the Allies. The British and French conferees today, like those of 21 years ago, were the Prime Minister and one military leader from each country. Other politicians in subordinate positions were ignored.

## Assume Supreme Direction.

In other words, Messrs. Chamberlain and Daladier are assuming the supreme direction of this war as David Lloyd George and Georges Clemenceau did before them. Persons close to Mr. Chamberlain say that he is determined to be a war leader and not just a chairman of war committees, and that he is personally resolved to see Hitlerism crushed before peace is concluded.

The second and obvious point of interest in today's communique is its reiteration of the Anglo-French pledge to fight to the limit. This is the most authoritative answer that has yet come to Marshal Hermann Goering's suggestions of a few days ago that Britain and France are not in earnest and will accept a peace offer from Hitler whenever it comes.

Finally, there is the cryptic announcement that the two western allies are resolved "to give all possible assistance" to Poland.

The plight of Poland was not, of course, the only reason why the supreme council met today. It was emphasized tonight that meetings would be held regularly at frequent intervals so that Anglo-French policy as well as strategy and tactics would be unified throughout the war.

If such a lesson had been learned in the last World War, military experts agree, the history of those years might have been different. At the beginning Britain and France co-operated through staffs or "ordinary diplomatic channels."

On the British home front, however, co-ordination has not yet progressed so far, and Mr. Chamberlain will have to answer many complaints on the subject when the Commons reassembles tomorrow. The censorship outdid itself in the middle last night over the "news"—first released, then suppressed, then released again hours later—of the presence of the British army in France.

The newspapers wasted thousands of pounds in confiscating editions which were not only off the presses, but actually on trains bound for provinces. One paper alone had to scrap 250,000 copies. The publishers fumed, and hundreds of thousands of readers got their papers late or missed them altogether.

Today Fleet Street blazed with brief resentment, which found only a pale expression in the editorial columns. The trouble was attributed everywhere to divided authority—

the curse of Britain in the early days of the last war—and to the lack of just that co-ordination which appears to exist in the field of inter-allied policy.

Tomorrow in the Commons, Arthur Greenwood, Deputy Leader of the Labor Party, is expected to voice some of the criticisms in the country and to demand a more effective liaison between the service departments and the information Ministry.

(By P. J. PHILIP.)

(Wireless to The New York Times and The Globe and Mail.)

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Paris, Sept. 12.—An allied Supreme War Council has been created, and as a member of that council, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain today visited France for its first meeting.

It is presumed, of course, that the two Premiers and the other members of the Supreme Council discussed and decided a great deal more than is told in the communique of which the results will be seen later.

In the first place their meeting was in some sense a reply to Hermann Goering's insinuation that there were differences of outlook between the two Governments, and that different tactics should be employed towards the two peoples.

Nothing is more obvious than the complete harmony and unity which exists between the two countries engaged in the war against Hitlerian aggression. They have pooled their resources to a far greater degree than was ever done until towards the end of the last war, and their leaders have made a good beginning in meeting the Supreme Council at the outset of war and not when it was more than half-way over, as they did the last time they fought Germany together.

That the communique regarding their meeting is very much in the nature of understatement is perhaps only in accord with the characters of the two Premiers, who both dislike anything that savors of display or exaggeration.