

Bases for Discussion

During the weeks ahead there will be a great deal in the newspapers about the Dumbarton Oaks and the Bretton Woods proposals which will be the bases of discussions at the international conference convening today in San Francisco.

What are the Dumbarton Oaks proposals? They are the terms found acceptable to the delegates assembled last October at Dumbarton Oaks as a start toward a charter for a world organization to preserve peace. They embrace the following tentative pledges:

1. To refrain from the use of force or intimidation except as authorized by the world organization or in self-defense.
2. To settle all disputes by arbitration and abide by decisions so rendered.
3. To assist in suppressing aggression or oppression of weaker nations by stronger powers.
4. To co-operate in extending the scope of human freedom and relief of human needs.
5. To encourage the establishment of popular governments based on untrammelled elections.
6. To consider the welfare of all nations as conducive to the welfare of each.

And what are the Bretton Woods proposals? They constitute a plan for economic co-operation. This plan contemplates two structures:

1. The creation of an international monetary fund to insure stability in the values of currencies, with an object to facilitate and promote commerce between nations.
2. The creation of an international bank for reconstruction and development, providing long-term credits for rehabilitation of industries and devastated countries.

By keeping the foregoing brief summaries in mind, the reader will more easily understand the meaning of the discussions which will be reported out of San Francisco.