Papers Relating to the Ford Peace Plan

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Collection Summary

Title: Papers Relating to the Ford Peace Plan
Span Dates: 1915-1918
ID No.: MSS21048
Extent: 4,200 items ; 14 containers ; 5 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Abstract: Correspondence, conference proceedings, bulletins, reports, clippings, news summaries, lists, speeches, biographical sketches, memoranda, and other items relating to the Henry Ford Peace Expedition, the Neutral Conference for Continuous Mediation, and the short-lived Ford International Commission.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
Addams, Jane, 1860-1935--Correspondence.
Bryan, William Jennings, 1860-1925--Correspondence.
Ford, Henry, 1863-1947.
Jordan, David Starr, 1851-1931--Correspondence.
Lindsey, Ben B. (Ben Barr), 1869-1943--Correspondence.
McClure, S. S. (Samuel Sidney), 1857-1949--Correspondence.

Organizations
Ford International Commission.
Henry Ford Peace Expedition (1915-1916)
Neutral Conference for Continuous Mediation (1916 : Stockholm, Sweden)

Subjects
World War, 1914-1918--Peace.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Papers relating to the Ford Peace Plan were transferred to the Library of Congress by the Army War College in 1954.

Processing History

The Ford Peace Plan Papers were processed in 1955. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Additional Guides

A note on the papers of the Ford Peace Plan appeared in the *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* (January 25, 1955).

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unnpublished writings of papers relating to the Ford Peace Plan is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The Ford Peace Plan Papers are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Papers Relating to the Ford Peace Plan, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	*Event*
1915, Nov.	Rosika Schwimmer convinced Henry Ford that he could do something to bring peace to warring Europe. Louis P. Lochner, of the Carnegie Peace Endowment then joined Schwimmer in developing early plans. Late in Nov., Ford chartered the Oscar II, a steamship of the Scandinavian-American Lines. Invitations to join the expedition were sent to prominent people of many professions, including all U.S. senators and representatives and governors of states, as well as one student from each of many universities
1915, Dec. 4	*Oscar II* sailed from New York, N.Y., with Henry Ford, Rosika Schwimmer, and Louis P. Lochner heading the party
1915, Dec. 19	*Oscar II* docked at Christiana, Norway
1915, Dec. 24	Henry Ford sailed for home because of illness
1915, Dec. 25	A Committee of Seven was formed and it was decided to call the expedition the "Neutral Conference for Continuous Mediation." Prominent persons from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, and Switzerland were asked to join the party
1915, Dec. 25-30	The expedition visited Stockholm, Sweden
1916, Jan. 1-7	The expedition visited Copenhagen, Denmark
1916, Jan. 8	The expedition arrived (via Germany) at Hague, Netherlands. It was decided to choose five delegates and five alternates from each neutral country for the Neutral Conference for Continuous Mediation. Stockholm, Sweden, was designated as the meeting place
1916, Jan. 10	American guests, except for those chosen as delegates, left for home
1916, Jan. 26	Delegates arrived at Stockholm and the Neutral Conference for Continuous Mediation got under way informally
1916, Mar. 30	The Conference adjourned
1916, May	A Permanent Working Committee of twelve members (two from each neutral country) was set up
1916, July	The General Secretary and the Secretariat moved to Hague, Netherlands. Other members met in Stockholm, Sweden, and Berne, Switzerland
1916, Dec.	It was decided to reorganize completely. As of February 1, 1917, the new name was to be "The Ford Peace Commission"
1917, Feb.	Henry Ford withdrew his support and the venture was terminated

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Ford Peace Plan span the years 1915-1918 and consist of correspondence, conference proceedings, bulletins, reports, clippings, news summaries, lists, speeches, biographical sketches of participants, memoranda, and other items relating to the Henry Ford Peace Expedition, the Neutral Conference for Continuous Mediation, and the short-lived Ford International Commission. The collection is organized into two series: General Correspondence and Subject File.

These papers were placed in the American Legation at the Hague in 1917. On September 30, 1918, fourteen packages were sent to the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department in Washington at its request. The covering letter of that date stated that the rest of the papers would be sent later. This collection apparently contains only the records in those fourteen packages. Included is material relating to the investigation of the expedition by the Military Intelligence Division.

When the papers were received by the Library of Congress in 1954, they contained photostats and translations of German correspondence that were done, according to the stamps on the documents, by Military Intelligence in 1918.

Correspondents include Jane Addams, William Jennings Bryan, David Starr Jordan, Ben B. Lindsey, and S. S. McClure

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in two series:

- General Correspondence, 1915-1917
- Subject File, 1915-1918

Description of Series

Container	*Series*
BOX 1-7	**General Correspondence, 1915-1917** Letters and telegrams sent and received by various members of the Ford peace group. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 8-14	**Subject File, 1915-1918** Minutes of meetings and other committee material, reports, lists, speeches, news releases, personnel information, clippings, and miscellaneous items. Arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	*Contents*
BOX 1-7	**General Correspondence, 1915-1917**
	Letters and telegrams sent and received by various members of the Ford peace group. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1915
BOX 1	Jan.-27 Nov.
BOX 2	28-30 Nov.
BOX 3	30 Nov.-3 Dec.
BOX 4	3-31 Dec.
BOX 5	1916
BOX 5	1 Jan.-6 Feb.
BOX 6	7 Feb.-30 Nov.
BOX 7	1916, Dec.-1917, Dec.
BOX 8-14	**Subject File, 1915-1918**
	Minutes of meetings and other committee material, reports, lists, speeches, news releases, personnel information, clippings, and miscellaneous items. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 8	Ford Peace Expedition, Dec. 1, 1915-Jan. 15, 1916 (2 folders)
BOX 8	Library Committee *Bulletins*, July 1, 1916-Jan. 1, 1917
BOX 8	Meetings
BOX 8	American delegation, Jan. 11-14, 1916
BOX 8	Committee on Administration, Dec. 25, 1915-Jan. 17, 1916
BOX 8	Committee on the Neutral Conference, May 16-19, 1916
BOX 8	Committee on the Constructive Peace, May 19-July 24, 1915
BOX 8	Committee on Activities and Outlook (General Purpose), May 20-July 10, 1916
BOX 9	International Delegations, Jan. 8-20, 1916
BOX 9	Neutral Conference, Feb. 20-July 12, 1916, undated (3 folders)
BOX 9	Committee for the Mediation, May 19-July 24, 1916
BOX 9	Personnel
BOX 9	Ford Peace Ship
BOX 9	International delegates
BOX 9	General
BOX 9	American
BOX 9	Denmark
BOX 9	Netherlands
BOX 9	Norway
BOX 9	Sweden
BOX 9	Switzerland

Container	*Contents*
BOX 9	List on cards of persons invited
BOX 10	Press
BOX 10	Clippings, Dec. 1, 1915-Dec. 10, 1916
BOX 10	Releases, Nov. 1915-Jan. 1916
BOX 10	Summaries
BOX 10	General secretary's bulletins and other news summaries, May 9, 1916-Feb. 1917 (4 folders)
BOX 10	Reports on Russian press in Germany, May 18-Dec. 29, 1916 (4 folders)
BOX 11-12	Printed matter relating to the peace plan, neutral conference documents, and other publications of the peace expedition
BOX 13	Speeches, Dec. 1915-Jan. 1917, undated (6 folders)
BOX 14	War Department investigation, including memoranda of personnel and letters of peace group prepared by the Military Intelligence Division and a dossier on Rexford L. Homes, 1918 (2 folders)
BOX 14	Miscellany
BOX 14	Financial matter
BOX 14	Fragments
BOX 14	Notes
BOX 14	Photographs
BOX 14	Unidentified material