SCOTTISH BLACKMAIL TRIAL APPEAL FAILS

In Commons To-Day

BRITAIN'S DISARMAMENT POLICY

SIR JOHN SIMON'S OUTLINE

America's Break with Traditional Policy

In the Commons to-day, on a Foreign Office vote for £124,000, Sir John Simon, Foreign Secretary, made a short statement on what has been happening at the Disarmament Conference during the last few days.

The British Draft Convention was submitted to the Disarmament Conference on February 16. That Draft, he said, had been the governing feature of discussions at Geneva ever since. Those who acted as rapporteur in the Conference, at the end of the Session, about the British Draft Convention, recommending that the British Draft should be taken and treated as the basis for discussion.

Mr. Davis's Statement.

Last week at Geneva, at the full meeting of the United States Government's leading representative, Mr Norman Davis, intimated that so far as the Government she is prepared to reserve all her freedom of action in regard to the modification of certain articles she will be prepared to have it.

He quoted Mr Davis's own words:—"I wish to make it clear that I am not only to do our part in a substantial reduction of armaments, but that this is effected by general agreement, we are also prepared to contribute in other ways to the cause of peace. In particular, we are prepared to consult with other States, in the event of a threat to peace, with a view to such action as may be appropriate to meet that threat."

Sir John commented Sir John that declaration has ever been formal terms by the United States.

U.S. Attitude.

Mr Davis also indicated that further than in the event of the States to confer in the meeting that any State had been guilty of the peace and to act against the violator. Then if the States concurred in the judgment of the States so to who was the re-sponsible party, then the United States would refrain from any action likely to defeat such collective action the States might then make to re-

His Interpretation.

It was of first importance, said Sir John that they should not exaggerate or underestimate the significance of that declaration by many of the States. It was very last thing he would desire to do, but him to understand that declaration as it did, the United States insisted that it should preserve its own independent right to act as it might think right and what was right and what was in connection with the dispute.

Now It Rests.

That, he said, was the best to produce a new He hoped would meet the situation. The idea that since they were all agreed that there should be some machinery which would accept the decision of the States would at least make a proposal which conference might be in a position to say that the United States would be prepared to accept the proposal with some misgiving, but he was happy to think that the American representative he had seen was prepared to go to the utmost limit of the way in which the States, if all went well, would be able to associate itself with that part of the treaty.

Abandoned Tradition.

The United States proposed to associate themselves by a unilateral declaration. They had not hesitated in difficulties in doing it by any other way. He could not say how much we should value this effort which was being made now by the American Government and by the President to co-operate with us in what was a piece of world work, and to abandon a tradition which the American people themselves jealously guarded.

Whilst, of course, they circumscribed most strictly and clearly the limits within which they undertook to go, it was a fundamental change—the prospect of American influence being effectively exerted if, unhappily, they were faced with conflict.

Broadly speaking, the way in which America looked at this problem was that she insisted that she must be the judge of the circumstances at the time when these circumstances were known. That was a very characteristic British way of putting it in.

"It would indeed be foolish to delude ourselves with the hope that we are on the eve of some definite and final agreement. Nobody who has not been concerned closely in these problems can really have any conception of their inevitable complication, but I think the House would wish me to say that I believe there is a very good spirit in the effort which is now being made."

British Policy.

Sir John then proceeded to outline what he conceived to be some of the heads of British policy in relation to disarmament.

(1) We must warmly welcome and warmly support the new declaration of policy which message addressed to the heads of every State participating in the Disarmament Conference by the President of the United States.

That the world should seek practical results by concerted action at Geneva.

That we should work together in limiting the powers of offensive attack by qualitative reduction.

And that we should collaborate in pressing forward the general adoption of the British draft convention.

(2) It is right to add that Britain has already effected immense reductions (Hear, hear)—and we cannot go further without general agreement, but we have shown to any doubt that our own forces considerable is the step towards further disarmament which could be taken provided that the other nations of the world join in the agreement and perform their part. (Hear, hear.)

Demand for Security.

(3) We, the Government and the British people, recognise the validity of the concern for the future which lies behind the demand of the United States for what is called equal security.

Part one of the draft British plans deals with the problem of security and disarmament which has been made by the American Government, together with the adequate and practical provision for extension of supervision—(hear, hear)—through the permanent Disarmament Commission go far to meet that demand.

Our Obligations.

(4) Britain expresses her readiness alongside the