

INVITATIONS EXTENDED BY UNITED STATES TO INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION TEXTILE CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, APRIL 2-17, 1937¹

550.41B1/54 : Circular telegram

The Secretary of State to the Ambassador in the United Kingdom (Bingham)^{1a}

WASHINGTON, January 29, 1937—3 p.m.

The Twentieth Session of the International Labor Conference adopted, on the proposal of the United States Government delegates, a resolution² in favor of holding a tripartite technical conference to consider improvement of conditions in the textile industry. The Seventy-seventh Session of the Governing Body of the International Labor Office adopted a resolution³ deciding to invite the Governments of all countries in which textile production forms an important part of their national economy to send delegates and technical advisers familiar with the problems of the textile industry to take part in a tripartite conference to consider all those aspects of the industry which directly or indirectly may have a bearing on the improvement of social conditions in the industry. Upon the recommendation of this Government the Governing Body decided to hold the Conference in Washington, to convene April 2, 1937.⁴

It is understood that a formal invitation to attend this Conference has already been extended by the International Labor Office to the British Government. You are requested to call at the Foreign Office and express orally the hope that, in view of the importance of the textile industry to British national economy, the British Government will be represented at the Conference.

Repeat *mutatis mutandis* to Am[erican] Embassies, Brussels, Paris, Berlin, Rome, Warsaw, Moscow and Valencia; Am[erican] Legations

¹ Twenty-three countries were officially represented by delegations at the Conference; see *American Delegations to International Conferences, Congresses and Expositions and American Representation on International Institutions and Commissions, With Relevant Data, 1937*, Department of State Conference Series No. 35 (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1938), pp. 59-63.

^{1a} See last paragraph for instructions to repeat to certain other missions.

² International Labor Organization Document No. G. B. 77/7/116.

³ I. L. O. Press Release C. P. 66.

⁴ *Ibid.*

Vienna, Prague, The Hague, Bern and Stockholm, and by airmail to American Consul, Calcutta.

HULL

550.41B1/56: Telegram

The Ambassador in Italy (Phillips) to the Secretary of State

ROME, February 1, 1937—7 p.m.
[Received February 1—6:18 p.m.]

40. Department's circular of January 29, 3 p.m. During my call at the Foreign Office this afternoon I expressed the hope that the Italian Government would be represented at the Technical Textile Conference. In reply Count Ciano⁵ informed me that inasmuch as the Italian Government was no longer represented on the League or on the International Labor Conference he was not in a position to send a delegate to the Textile Conference. On the other hand, if before April 2, Italy should again become associated with the League and the labor organization, Italy would be represented at the Conference.

PHILLIPS

550.41B1/68: Telegram

The Ambassador in Germany (Dodd) to the Secretary of State

BERLIN, February 9, 1937—5 p.m.
[Received February 9—12:35 p.m.]

28. Department's circular January 29, 3 p.m., to Paris. Doctor Schacht⁶ told me Germany ought to accept and that he would be glad to go himself. Von Neurath⁷ said about the same to me on February 3 and added that he would talk with Schacht and others and let us know their decision. No reply has come yet. I have my doubts about any participation useful as it might be.

DODD

550.41B1/121: Telegram

The Secretary of State to the Ambassador in Germany (Dodd)

WASHINGTON, March 17, 1937—6 p.m.

17. Your 28, February 9, 5 p. m. Please call again at the Foreign Office and express the hope that, in view of the importance of the German textile industry, Germany will be represented if possible by

⁵ Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

⁶ Hjalmar Schacht, German Minister for Economic Affairs, and President of the Reichsbank.

⁷ Constantin von Neurath, German Minister for Foreign Affairs.

a qualified delegation or, if that is not possible, at least by an observer with wide technical knowledge of the textile industry. You may add that no decisions will be taken by the Conference, which is designed to provide merely an opportunity for discussions of the problems of the industry.

The Department has received an intimation that Germany may be represented by an observer.⁸

HULL

⁸ By telegram No. 54, March 23, noon, the Embassy was informed that Germany would be represented at the Conference by a member of the German Embassy staff in Washington (550.41B1/138).

Rumania, Turkey, and the Soviet Union were similarly represented by observers (*American Delegations . . . 1937*, p. 62).