

*von englischen Gesandten
aus. Sibergstein
28.10.20*

*C13/22/19.B. b-Hold
29.10.20*



Most Confidential.

AIDE - MEMOIRE.

The British Legation have received certain information from their Government regarding the interpretation the latter put on the clauses in the Versailles Treaty relating to the Rhine.

The British Government are of opinion that, in principle, the decisions of the Central Commission of the Rhine are not binding without the approval of the governments represented on the Commission. This appears to them clear from the text of article XLVI of the Convention of Mannheim, which reads:-

"Ces résolutions ne seront toutefois obligatoires
"qu'après avoir été approuvées par les gouvernements".

This, however, is a general stipulation only, and His Majesty's Government do not regard it as applicable in respect of the rights which have been accorded to France by article 358 of the Treaty of Versailles. Those rights, as appears from the subsequent article of the Treaty, are absolute, and the intervention of the Commission, in this connection, is only admissible to the extent of ensuring that the facilities afforded to navigation by the works which France is entitled to carry out are not less than the facilities which actually exist. In this connection, however, the

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earnest hope that the Swiss Government will not delay any longer the participation of the Swiss representatives in the deliberations of the Commission, where their presence would be as much in the interest of Switzerland as it would be welcome to the British Government.

British Legation,

BERNE.

October 27, 1920.