Gaston Doumergue
Président de la République Française.
à tous ceux qui ces présentes lettres verront.
Salut:

La Cinquième Assemblée de la Société des Nations s'étant réunie à Genève conformément à l'Article 3 du Pacte, Nous avons chargé M. Aristide Briand, Député, ancien Président du Conseil, Délégué de la France à cette Assemblée, d'étudier toutes les questions qui sont l'objet de cette réunion internationale et, par les présentes, le nommons et constituons Notre Plénipotentiaire à l'effet de négocier, conclure et signer avec le ou les Plénipotentiaires...
également munis de pleins pouvoirs de la part des
Puissances contractantes, le "Protocole d'Arbitrage, de
sécurité et de réduction des Armements" établi par la
dite Assemblée. Promettant d'accomplir et d'exécuter
tout ce que Notre dit Plénipotentiaire aura stipulé à signé
au nom du Gouvernement de la République Française,
sans jamais y contraire, ni permettre qu'il y soit
contraire directement ou indirectement, pour quelque
prétexé et de quelque manière que ce soit, sous la réserve
de Nos Lettres de Ratification que Nous ferons délivrer-
en bonne et due forme pour être échangées dans le délai
qui sera convenu. En foi de quoi, Nous avons fait
apposer à ces présentes le Sceau de la République.
Fait à Paris, le 2 Octobre 1924.

[Signature]

Par le Président de la République ;
Le Président du Conseil, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères.
ment by her Foreign Minister, M. Briand, on April 6, the
ten anniversary of the entry of America into the war. Going
beyond the usual expressions of friendly gratitude, M. Briand
took up the question how to assure international peace—a
question on which he has wreaked himself for several years
past. Turning directly to the United States, he said, with all
the significance and solemnity of an official utterance, that
“France would be willing to subscribe publicly with the United
States to any mutual engagement tending to outlaw war, to
use an American expression, as between these two countries.”

It is strange, as President Butler observes, that this extra-
ordinary approach by the French Foreign Minister attracted
so little attention in this country. Perhaps one reason was that,
in addition to being somewhat submerged in the flood of news
and opinion relating to our entrance into the European con-

cflict, Congress was not in session at the time. If it had been,
this French offer would surely have been seized upon at least
for comment. Even as it is, it is hard to see how Senator Borah
has been able to keep silent about it. He has been a passionate
advocate of outlawing war. To achieve that blessing univer-
sally would obviously be a slow and difficult process. But one
war at a time can be abolished. If our Government, with the
consent of Congress, could agree with France on the lines of a
treaty as proposed by M. Briand, war between France and the
United States would become forever impossible.

This is a practical step that could be taken early. As a great
good in itself and a splendid example to other nations, it could
not fail to help mightily the ultimate abolition of all war on
a great scale. It would have an effect much greater than that
of a treaty of universal arbitration. In the last years of his life
Theodore Roosevelt became converted to the thought of a
treaty of arbitration with England covering every question,
even questions of “vital interest” and national “honor,”
usually exempted from arbitration treaties. This was because
he felt that war with England for any reason was unthinkable,
and might well be made impossible. That, too, was in its
essence an attempt to outlaw war as between two given
nations. It is now renewed by France, and in a more specific
form. As Dr. Butler states, it is incredible that the American
Government should ignore so direct and striking a plan. Should
it do so, it would be a reproach to it and would reflect upon the
sincerity of our protests that we are as a nation anxious to
seek peace in every way and to ensue it. Too long has M.
Briand’s wonderful gesture gone unnoticed. It is time that
our rulers and our public woke up to its importance and
decided what response they are going to make.