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Preliminary to the inaugural meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations, The King gave a State banquet to the delegates at St. James' Palace. As in these shots with Mr. Bevin and America's Mr. Byrnes, His Majesty talked freely and informally to his guests for more than an hour after dinner. No other State Banquet has ever been photographed; these pictures were taken in the "Queen Anne Drawing Room" by order of the King.

Already named the Banquet of Peace, this informal gathering launched the world's most momentous conference.

Westminster's Central Hall, decked with the flags of fifty-one nations, is chosen to house the Assembly. The honour of the first major speech went to Mr. Attlee. At the end of it, he said:

SPEECH

Shock item came when Russia proposed an alternative to M. Spaak as President.

SPEECH

Russia's suggestion of an election by a show of hands was rejected and Royal Marines give out voting papers for a secret ballot. Delegates record their votes in U.N.O's first election. This meeting, as Mr. Attlee said in his speech, recognises the truth of the phrase Mr. Litvinov once used at Geneva, "Peace is Indivisible." Twenty six years ago on this same day, the League of Nations was born. We have learned many things since then. Today, as the United Nations sit at work together we hope that a bright new age has just begun.

SPEECH