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PEACE WITH JAPAN

At San Francisco, peace-loving nations near success as delegates arrive at the War Memorial Opera House for the final session of the Japanese Peace Conference. Pickets show anti-Russian feeling but rumours of an attempt to kill Gromyko prove groundless.

And it's a dramatic moment when Premier Yoshida formally announces Japan's acceptance of the terms. Criticised by many for its leniency, the treaty is a personal triumph for Dean Acheson, American Foreign Secretary, and a rebuff for Russia whose attempt to make a farce of the conference he foiled.

Before the signing there's a bit of comedy. Gromyko leaves the hall for a moment - just for a smoke, it's understood - but when Russia moves the satellites follow, so, exit Poland, too.

And so to the signing. First here's Australia. Though a little uncertain because of her experiences, she takes the long view, and so does New Zealand. Those who suffered at the hands of Japan fear a resurgence of the military spirit; but in a Japan given a chance to rebuild they see another shield against Communism and it's in this spirit that Herbert Morrison signs for Britain. If Japan keeps the line she now takes, only good can come from this treaty ... but Russia will have none of this pact. Once again where her lead could bring peace to a troubled world Russia stands back.

Now Secretary of State Acheson adds his signature and after him comes John Foster Dulles who played a big part in the negotiations with Japan. In all 49 nations signify their approval.

It remains only for Japan to sign and there's a hush as Mr. Yoshida brings the conference to a successful conclusion. If leniency has been shown, it is with the will of 49 nations in their search for peace and security. May the future justify their faith.