

# Pacifist Julia Grace Wales and the National Peace Movement

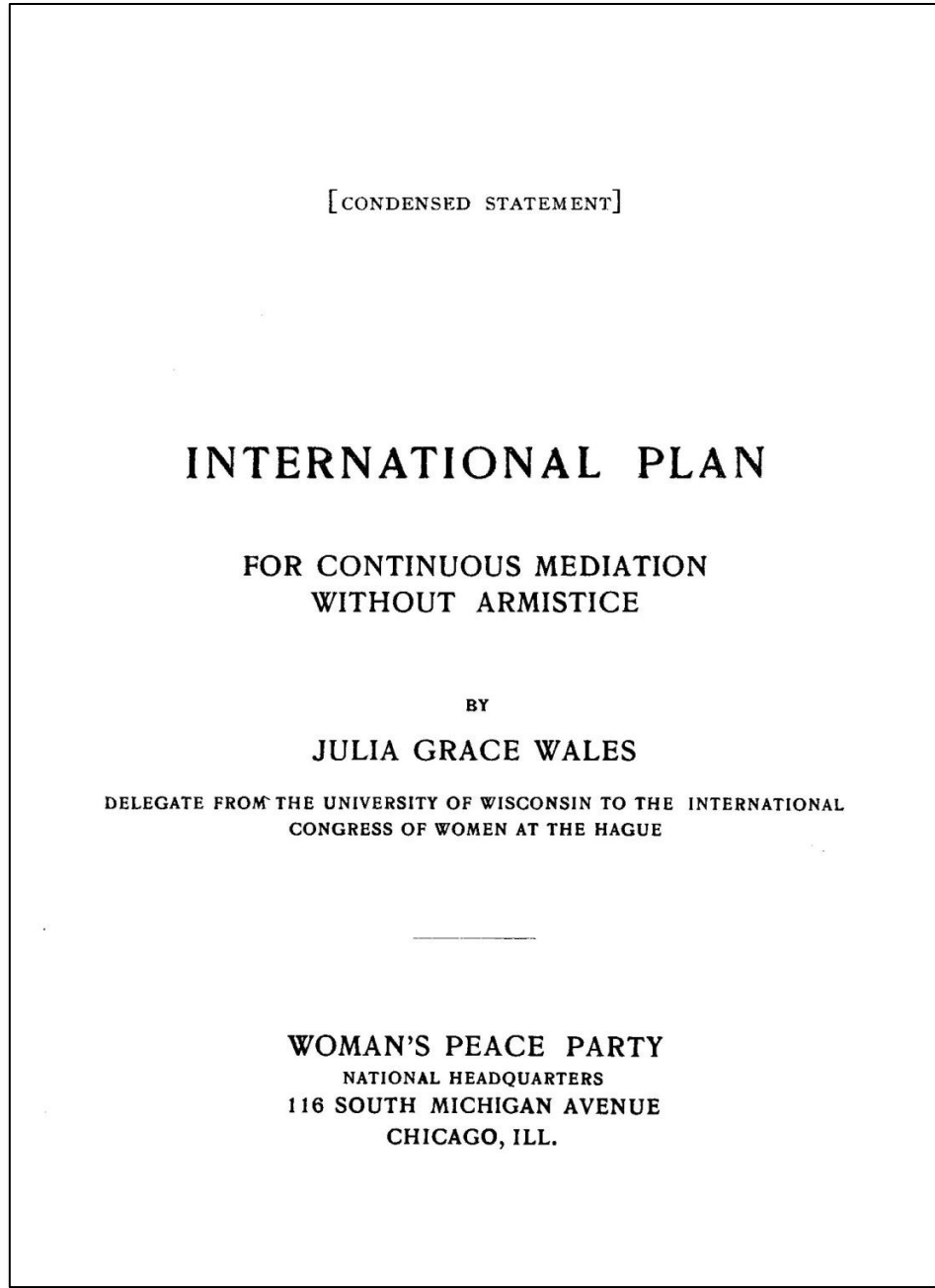
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## Brochure

"International Plan for Continuous Mediation Without Armistice" brochure.  
Julia Grace Wales Papers in the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives



See more classroom materials and lesson plans on the Wisconsin Historical Society website.

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## DEFINITION.

The International Plan for Continuous Mediation without Armistice suggests that an International Commission of experts be formed, to sit as long as the war continues. The members of the commission should have a scientific but no diplomatic function; they should be without power to commit their governments. "The Commission should explore the issues involved in the present struggle, and in the light of this study begin making propositions to the belligerents in the spirit of constructive internationalism. If the first effort fail, they should consult and deliberate, revise their original propositions or offer new ones, coming back again and again if necessary, in the unalterable conviction that some proposal will ultimately be found that will afford a practical basis for actual peace negotiation." The Commission should be established without delay, on neutral initiative.

A more extended development of this idea is to be had in a 16 page pamphlet "Continuous Mediation without Armistice." Copies may be secured from the Woman's Peace Party, National Headquarters, 116 So. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.

## CONDENSED ARGUMENT.

Our argument for Continuous Mediation without Armistice rests on the following convictions:

(1) That humanity should be able to find some method of avoiding prolonged wholesale destruction;

(2) That on both sides there are people who believe themselves to be fighting in self-defense, who desire a right settlement, and who ought not to have to fight against each other; that it is an ultimate outrage against humanity that they have to do so;

(3) That the only way to straighten the tangle is to adopt and persistently employ the device of placing simultaneous conditional proposals ("will you ——— if the rest will?") before the belligerents; that neither side can think correctly or effectively unless it has among the data of its thinking, exact knowledge as to how the enemy (not merely the government but the various elements of the people) would react to every possible proposal for settlement;

(4) That truth tends to work on the mind, and that to place sane standing proposals before the nations would tend to ripen the time for peace;

(5) That delay is dangerous because bitterness and the desire for revenge are growing stronger, and the civil power in all warring countries is daily growing weaker in proportion to the military;

(6) That there ought to be a commission of experts sitting throughout the war and in some way holding the possibilities of settlement before the belligerents; that world consciousness is trying to break through; that a world thinking organ should be created and that the creation of such an organ at this juncture would concentrate and render effective the idealism of all nations and open the possibility of establishing upon a deposed militarism, the beginnings of World Federation.

## AN OBJECTION MET.

The following objection has been raised against the neutral propaganda for Continuous Mediation without Armistice:—

*The neutral argument assumes that both sides are equally in the wrong—an assumption contrary to truth and hence fundamentally immoral.*

In reply to this charge we emphatically assert that the neutral propaganda for Continuous Mediation without Armistice, makes no such assumption. What it does assume is that in any case there are some right-thinking people on both sides. In an appeal for co-operation to right-thinking people in all countries neutral and belligerent, whatever their national prejudices in connection with the present war, we believe that it would be out of place to dogmatize as to which side, if either, represents the cause of international righteousness for which we desire to contend, in working for the establishment of an international commission. We believe that any nation sincerely fighting for the right has nothing to fear from the plan and much to gain, that the Plan is on the side of any country that is on the side of international righteousness. We believe that the plan of Continuous Mediation without Armistice will tend to assist and reward right motives in every country and to thwart wrong motives. We believe that the citizen of any country understanding our plan and believing that his own country is fighting for the right will feel that the plan is favourable to his own national cause. We believe that the plan if carried out, would, while thwarting short-sighted national selfishness, tend to bring ultimate good to all lands—the genuine and permanent benefit which depends on the welfare of the family of nations as a whole. Among those working for the establishment of the International Commission are people of various national sympathies. Probably there is no one working for the establishment of the International Commission who has not a personal opinion as to which side on the whole represents the cause of right. We feel however, that difference of opinion as to the sincerity of the belligerents, the responsibility of the war, and the attitude which the various nations will take in the settlement need not prevent us from working together provided that we are agreed in our desire for the establishment of a permanent peace based on principles of international righteousness.