INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOIL SCIENCE

MESSAGE
FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

REPORT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE, CONCERNING A REQUEST MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE THAT LEGISLATION BE ENACTED THAT WILL GIVE CONGRESSIONAL SANCTION TO THE HOLDING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOIL SCIENCE IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1927

DECEMBER 10, 1925.—Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith a report by the Secretary of State, concerning a request made by the Secretary of Agriculture that legislation be enacted that will give congressional sanction to the holding of an international conference on soil science in the United States in 1927, for which I request the favorable consideration of Congress.

CALVIN COOLIDGE.

The White House,
December 10, 1925.

The President:

I have the honor to submit herewith a copy of a letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, requesting that legislation may be obtained of Congress that will enable the President to extend invitations to foreign governments to be represented by delegates at the Fifth International Conference of Soil Science to be held in the United States in 1927, in pursuance of a decision of the fourth conference, which met at Rome in May, 1924. No appropriation is asked for at this time by the Secretary of Agriculture and none is in contemplation, he states, for the expenses of delegates, but that it may be advisable later “to request that a small appropriation, not exceed-
ing $5,000, be provided for the publication of the proceedings and reports of the conferences and for miscellaneous printing items, as was done by the governments of other countries in which the previous conferences have been held."

It appears from the letter that the ultimate object of the work of the International Conferences of Soil Science is to obtain an accurate determination of agricultural possibilities throughout the world as reflected by soil types, and that—

The holding of such a conference in the United States should prove especially advantageous in promoting this branch of science, since a much larger number of American representatives interested in soil science, both those associated in Federal Government activities and those connected with State colleges and other institutions in work along these lines, would thereby be enabled to participate in the conference and benefit by the exchange of ideas with the leading students of soil problems in foreign nations concerning the latest developments in experimental, educational, and teaching work.

In view of this, I have the honor to recommend that the Secretary of Agriculture's letter be brought to the attention of Congress, to the end that that body may consider whether or not the holding of the Fifth International Conference of Soil Science in the United States in 1927 would be of such public benefit as to warrant the governmental sanction requested by the Secretary of Agriculture.

A copy of a letter from the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, stating that the request is not in conflict with the financial program of the President, is attached.

Respectfully submitted.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 25, 1925.

CHARLES E. HUGHES.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, February 11, 1925.

The Secretary of State.

Dear Mr. Secretary: It is recommended that appropriate steps be taken to secure legislation, at the present session of Congress if possible, to authorize the President to extend invitations to foreign governments to be represented by delegates at the Fifth International Conference of Soil Science, to be held at Washington, D. C., during 1927.

The First International Conference of Soil Science was held at Budapest in 1908. Prior to that conference these scientists met in international conference as a branch of the International Congress of Geologists. The Second International Conference of Soil Science took place at Stockholm, Sweden, in 1910, and at that meeting it was agreed to hold the third conference in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1913. Owing to the difficulties in Russia during the summer of 1913 the Russian Government requested the representatives of the soil scientists of that country to notify affiliated bodies in other nations that it would be inconvenient to attempt to hold the conference in Russia at the time scheduled. The third conference finally met at Prague in April, 1922, and the fourth conference at Rome in May, 1924. At the Rome conference it was decided to hold the fifth conference in the United States, at Washington.

The International Conference of Soil Science is made up of specialists from a number of countries in which soil investigations are
carried on in an intensive way. The conference is concerned with the establishment, through discussion and agreement, of uniform methods of procedure in the handling of soil problems of like character in all the countries represented, with the aim of eventually effecting a correlation of the soils of the whole world. One of the committees of the conference, for example, is concerned with the question of the classification of soils. This committee seeks to determine what particular soils that have been defined and mapped in one country are equivalent to particular soils that have been defined and mapped in another country. The ultimate object of all this work is to obtain an accurate determination of agricultural possibilities throughout the world as reflected by soil types. The holding of such a conference in the United States should prove especially advantageous in promoting this branch of science, since a much larger number of American representatives interested in soil science, both those associated in Federal Government activities and those connected with State colleges and other institutions in work along these lines, would thereby be enabled to participate in the conference and benefit by the exchange of ideas with the leading students of soil problems in foreign nations concerning the latest developments in experimental, educational, and teaching work.

It is not contemplated to request Congress to appropriate any funds for the expenses of the delegates attending the conference. It may be advisable later, however, to request that a small appropriation, not exceeding $5,000, be provided for the publication of the proceedings and reports of the conferences and for miscellaneous printing items, as was done by the governments of other countries in which the previous conferences have been held.

The following language covering the legislation desired is suggested:

That the President be, and he is hereby, authorized and requested to extend invitations to foreign governments to be represented by delegates at the International Conference of Soil Science to be held in the United States in 1927.

Sincerely yours,

HOWARD M. GORE,
Secretary.

BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, February 21, 1925.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I have your letter of February 17, 1925, inclosing copy of a proposed report to the President recommending that the Congress be requested to enact legislation requesting the President to extend invitations to foreign governments to be represented by delegates in the International Conference on Soil Science to be held in the United States in 1927.

It affords me pleasure to advise you that the proposed request for legislation for the purpose stated is not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

Sincerely yours,

H. M. LORD, Director.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE.