

BIG FOUR CONFERENCE

To Lancaster House came the strongly-bodyguarded Mr. Molotov for the Foreign Ministers' Conference. M. Bidault far represented France and with patience and optimism ~~which~~ exceeding that of the public the statesmen tried once again to reach agreement over the Government of Germany.

Outside, six of the husbands whose wives are held in Russia tried to get an appeal sent in to Molotov to change his mind. Their action was a supreme example of the triumph of hope over experience. The greatest No man in history cannot jeopardize the existence of Russia by allowing the unfortunate wives to come to ^{Britain.} ~~England. Outside the Soviet Embassy the men sort sympathy from passers-by and later distributed pamphlets in Whitehall. Love may laugh at locksmiths, but power-politics tell Love where it gets off.~~

If Russia can delay settlement till Europe obtains effective help under the Marshall Plan Soviet influence may well decide the fate of France and Democracy everywhere except Britain and America. Molotov ~~holds~~ holds a trump card ^{Upon} in the million on strike in France. / The sanity ~~of Marshall and Ernest Bevin~~ and character of ^{Mr} Marshall and Ernest Bevin Western Democracy ^e relies at the present conference.