

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GERMANY ARE BROKEN OFF; UNITED STATES IS ON VERGE OF ENTERING WORLD WAR

PROFOUND IMPRESSION CREATED IN ENGLAND, WHERE DECLARATION OF WAR IS CONSIDERED INEVITABLE

Not Since the First War Days of August, 1914, Has Any Event So Impressed Itself on Britain—But British Officials Recognize That New Situation Brings Drawbacks as Well as Advantages to Their Interests.

England and Her Allies Are Now Deprived of Assistance and Guardianship of American Diplomatic and Consular Services, and It is Doubtful That Other Neutral Establishments Will Be Able to Do Much for Interned Civilians and Military Prisoners. Belgian Relief Work Faced With Greatest Danger, as Withdrawal of American Commission May Cause Its Work to Collapse and Bring Hundreds of Thousands Face to Face With Starvation—Feeling That America Will Be Forced Into War Is Universal.

London, Feb. 3.—The American rupture with Germany has created the deepest impression here of any event since the first war days of August, 1914. There were no crowds around the newspaper offices, nor the exhibition of excitement as in those days, but the general feeling is one of sensation mixed with a considerable measure of surprise. British officials recognize that the new situation brings drawbacks as well as advantages to British interests. Great anxiety is felt for the welfare of Entente prisoners in Germany, who now are deprived of the assistance and measures of guardianship which the American diplomatic and consular services have been able to render, and doubts are felt whether the other neutral establishments will be able to do as much for the interned civilians and military prisoners.

Belgian relief work is faced with the greatest danger, as the withdrawal of the American commission may result in its complete collapse and bring hundreds of thousands face to face with starvation.

Universal feeling here is that the United States will inevitably be forced into war, and the part which she will be able to play therein is the chief topic of discussion, coupled with speculation as to its effect upon the supply of munitions to Europe.

The news of the sinking of the American steamer Housatonic, as well as the contents of the President's address, came too late for the evening papers, but wherever the sinking of the American vessel was known, it was assumed that it would go far toward precipitating war. The new German campaign of unrestricted submarine warfare is regarded here with composure. On the other hand, the withdrawal of the shipping of Scandinavia, Holland and Spain from traffic with England is recognized as a serious factor. The public, however, looks confidently to the Admiralty to speed up its anti-submarine measures, at least as fast as Germany increases her fleet of submarines, while it is expected that the main ships in American ports will soon reinforce Atlantic mercantile traffic.

BERNSTORFF SAYS BERLIN KNEW WHAT WAS COMING WHEN SUBMARINE WAR RENEWAL WAS ANNOUNCED

Washington, Feb. 3.—Having received passports for himself, his family and his suite, together with a note explaining why President Wilson has severed diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany, Count von Bernstorff tonight was waiting for his departure to be arranged by the Swiss Minister.

The Minister, Dr. Paul Ritter, has called Bern for formal authority to take over Germany's affairs here, and when it is received he will call on Secretary Lansing and arrange details. Count Tarnowski, the new Ambassador from Austria-Hungary, has not yet presented his credentials to the President, and confirmation of reports that his Government had taken action similar to that of Germany was not obtainable at the Embassy. It is taken for granted that when such action is taken, relations will be broken with the Vienna Government.

It is still uncertain what action will be taken by Turkey. The German Ambassador's last official day in his Embassy was an eventful one. His friends noticed that while he retained all his customary courtesy and tried his best to appear pleasant, actually he was deeply affected and gravely apprehensive.

Shortly after 10 o'clock this morning, he received a correspondent of the Associated Press in his study. "Well," he said, smiling and offering his hand, "what do you hear this morning? Am I going to be turned out? No information? Well, I have none either. I haven't heard a word."

As the talk drifted to prospects of peace and the Ambassador expressed the personal opinion that it was not improbable, even if relations were broken off that the United States might continue efforts in that direction a telephone bell tinkled. The Ambassador picked up the receiver, smiling. "He was quiet for a moment, then the expression on his face changed. "You say relations have been broken, and that the President is going to Congress? Are you sure? Well, maybe that's so. No, I have no comment to make and nothing to say. If that is true, I am a private citizen again."

The Ambassador turned to the correspondent and asked that verification of the report be obtained. This was done, and the Ambassador quickly walked into the next room to carry the news to Countess von Bernstorff. When he came back into his study, his eyes were moist and he said: "Nothing Left to Do."

"So, it really is true. I'm so sorry. However, as you know, I expected it. I never expected anything else. There was nothing left for the United States to do. I wonder how I am going to get home?"

"I suppose I will get my passports at this time now. But I certainly am not surprised at all. They know what was coming when they declared unrestricted submarine warfare. However, I have simply been here to carry out the orders of my Government, and I have done so. I haven't had any communication from my Government for the last day or so, and now I sup-

pose I will be unable to communicate with them at all, since the use of my code probably will not be allowed and I could not send messages in plain language."

It was nearly 2 o'clock when Assistant Solicitor Woolsey, of the State Department, arrived at the Embassy with the Ambassador's passports and the note from Secretary Lansing. Mr. Woolsey was taken to the Embassy study. He delivered the document and left immediately. A group of newspaper correspondents then went in.

The Ambassador, as is the custom, sat down under the portrait of his Emperor and opened the conversation by saying: "I am very glad to see all you gentlemen, but what interest can you have in me now. I am a private citizen again."

"Have you received your passports, Mr. Ambassador?" was asked. "Yes," he replied. "I have them for myself, my family and my suite. Swiss Minister in Charge."

"When am I going home?" I don't know. You'll have to ask the Swiss Minister that. I have asked him to take charge of our affairs and he will make all arrangements for my departure. Procedure? I don't know that either. This is my first experience of this kind and I will have to inform myself regarding what shall be done. I am just waiting to see what is going to happen."

The Ambassador was told that the United States would take necessary steps to protect American life and property on the seas, and was asked what would happen.

"What will happen?" he replied. "I can't say about that. If American warships are going to convoy ships carrying ammunition—well, really—I can't say what will happen."

And the Ambassador shrugged his shoulders. He said he expected to stay in Washington for the present, because in view of the situation on the seas, he did not see how he was going to return to Germany.

The United States Secret Service today arranged for one of its men to remain constantly with the Ambassador during the remainder of his stay in the United States, a measure of personal protection.

All business at the Embassy, heretofore one of the busiest in Washington, ceased abruptly when the word went around that relations had been broken off. For the most of the day, the Embassy was as quiet as a private home.

THROUGH HIM, 100,000,000 LOYAL AMERICANS SPEAK AS ONE



WOODROW WILSON

REVERENTLY INVOKING DIVINE GUIDANCE, PRESIDENT FORMALLY ADVISES CONGRESS OF HIS DECISION

Grave of Face and Deliberate in Speech, Solemnly the Nation's Ruler Acquaints Congress at Joint Session That Relations With Germany Had Been Broken Off—"We Seek Merely to Vindicate Our Right to Liberty and Justice and an Unmolested Life," He Said.

Washington, Feb. 3.—The severance of diplomatic relations with Germany was formally announced to the country and the world by President Wilson at a joint session of Congress today at 2 o'clock.

Fervently invoking the guidance of Almighty God in the step he had taken, the President, speaking deliberately and with great solemnity, said: "Gentlemen of the Congress: The Imperial German Government on the 31st of January announced to this Government and to the Governments of the other neutral Nations that on and after the first day of February, the present month, it would adopt a policy with regard to the use of submarines against all shipping seeking to pass through certain designated areas of the high seas to which it is clearly my duty to call your attention."

"Let me remind the Congress that on the 8th of April last in view of the sinking on the 24th of March of the cross-channel passenger steamer Sussex by a German submarine, without summons or warning and the consequent loss of the lives of several citizens of the United States who were passengers aboard her, this Government addressed a note to the Imperial German Government, in which it made the following declaration:—"

"If it is still the purpose of the Imperial Government to prosecute relentless and indiscriminate warfare against vessels of commerce by the use of submarines without regard to what the Government of the United States must consider the sacred and indisputable rules of international law and the universally recognized dictates of humanity, the Government of the United States is at last forced to the conclusion that there is but one course it can pursue. Unless the Imperial Government should now unconditionally declare and effect an abandonment of its present methods of submarine warfare against vessels of commerce and freight carrying ves-

sels, the Government of the United States can have no choice but to sever diplomatic relations with the German Empire altogether."

"In reply to this declaration, the Imperial German Government gave this Government the following assurance:—"

"The German Government is prepared to do its utmost to confine the operations of war for the rest of its duration to the fighting forces of the belligerents, thereby also insuring the freedom of the seas, a principle upon which the German Government believes now, as before, to be in agreement with the Government of the United States."

"The German Government, guided by this idea, notifies the Government of the United States that the German naval forces have received the following orders:—In accordance with the general principles of visit and search and destruction of merchant vessels recognized by international law, such vessels, both within and without the areas declared as naval war zones, shall not be sunk without warning and without saving human lives, unless these ships attempt to escape or offer resistance."

"But," it added, "neutrals cannot expect that Germany, forced to fight for her existence, shall, for the sake of neutral interests, restrict the use of an effective weapon if her enemy is permitted to continue to apply all methods of warfare violating the rules of international law. Such a demand would be incompatible with the character of neutrality, and the German Government is convinced that the Government of the United States does not think of making such a demand, knowing that the Government of the United States has repeatedly declared that it is determined to restore the principle of the freedom of the seas from whatever quarter it has been violated."

No Contingencies.

"To this the Government of the United States replied on the 8th of

May, accepting, of course, the assurances given, but adding:—"

"The Government of the United States feels it necessary to state that it takes it for granted that the Imperial German Government does not intend to imply that the maintenance of its newly announced policy is in any way contingent upon the course or result of diplomatic negotiations between the Government of the United States and any other belligerent Government, notwithstanding the fact that certain passages in the Imperial Government's note of the 4th instant might appear to be susceptible of that construction. In order, however, to avoid any misunderstanding, the Government of the United States notifies the Imperial Government that it cannot for a moment entertain, much less discuss, a suggestion that respect by German naval authorities for the rights of citizens of the United States upon the high seas should in any way or in the slightest degree be made contingent upon the conduct of any other Government affecting the rights of neutrals and non-combatants. Responsibility in such matters is single not joint; absolute, not relative."

"To this note of the 8th of May, the Imperial German Government made no reply."

"On the 21st of January, the Wednesday of the present week, the German Ambassador handed to the Secretary of State, along with a formal note, a memorandum which contained the following statement:—"

Withdrawal of Pledge.

"The Imperial Government, therefore, does not doubt that the Government of the United States will understand the situation thus forced upon Germany by the Entente Allies' brutal methods of war and by their determination to destroy the Central Powers, and that the Government of the United States will further realize that the now openly disclosed intention of the Entente Allies to restrict the freedom of the seas, and then quoted from the reply of the United States which refused to

RELATIONS SEVERED AND WARNING GIVEN KAISER THAT SACRIFICE OF AMERICAN LIVES WILL MEAN WAR

Similar Action Is Waiting for Austria When She Notifies This Government That She Will Join Germany in Campaign of Unrestricted Under-Sea Warfare—Dramatic Climax to Two Year of Negotiations Made Known by President to Congress.

At the Same Time, Passports Were Handed Count von Bernstorff and Ambassador Gerard and American Consuls Were Directed to Quit Germany, Diplomatic Interests Being Turned Over to Spain—Neutral Governments Notified of Action and Openly Invited to Follow America's lead—With Notification to Germany Went Demand for Release of Americans Taken From Ships Captured by German Raider in South Atlantic—Steps Promptly Taken for Protection of American Lives and Property From Conspiracies at Home and Submarine Menace on the Seas.

WASHINGTON, FEB. 3.—PRESIDENT WILSON HAS BROKEN OFF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GERMANY AND WARNED THE KAISER THAT RUTHLESS SACRIFICE OF AMERICAN LIVES AND RIGHTS MEANS WAR.

SIMILAR ACTION IS WAITING FOR AUSTRIA WHEN SHE NOTIFIES THIS GOVERNMENT THAT SHE JOINS IN THE CAMPAIGN OF UNRESTRICTED SUBMARINE WARFARE.

THE PRESIDENT MADE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS ACTION TO THE COUNTRY AND TO THE WORLD TODAY AT A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS.

PASSPORTS HAVE BEEN HANDED TO COUNT VON BERNSTORFF, AMBASSADOR GERARD, WITH ALL HIS STAFF AND ALL AMERICAN CONSULS, HAVE BEEN ORDERED OUT OF GERMANY. ALL GERMAN CONSULS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE EXPECTED TO WITHDRAW THAT THE SEVERANCE OF RELATIONS MAY BE COMPLETE. AMERICANS OVER TO SPAIN; GERMAN DIPLOMATIC INTERESTS IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER BY SWITZERLAND. FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC INTERESTS WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAD IN CHARGE IN GERMANY HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO JAPAN.

TWO YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATION, MARKED WITH FREQUENT CRISIS, AND ATTENDED WITH THE LOSS OF MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED AMERICAN LIVES ON THE HIGH SEAS, HAVE CULMINATED WITH A BREAK IN ALL THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD ALWAYS KNOWN TO WAR. EVERY AGENCY OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SET IN MOTION TO PROTECT THE COUNTRY AGAINST ACTS OF GERMAN SYMPATHIZERS. THESE MOVES ARE OF NECESSITY BEING KEPT SECRET.

With the notice of severance of relations, the United States sent to Berlin a message which stated that the knowledge spread rapidly. The breaking of relations came with a crash, despite the fact that it had been discussed and practically determined upon last night. The President, returning from his night conference with the Senators, determined that a break in relations was the only act "consistent with the dignity and the honor of the United States." He worked most of the night preparing his address to Congress.

GERARD ORDERED HOME.

At 10:30 o'clock this morning, it became known that Ambassador Gerard had been ordered home and that passports had been sent to Count von Bernstorff. Although there was no official confirmation of the President's decision until he formally announced it himself to Congress, the knowledge spread rapidly. The breaking of relations came with a crash, despite the fact that it had been discussed and practically determined upon last night. The President, returning from his night conference with the Senators, determined that a break in relations was the only act "consistent with the dignity and the honor of the United States." He worked most of the night preparing his address to Congress.

GRIM-FACED AND SOLEMN AS HE FACES CONGRESS, PRESIDENT MAKES UTTERANCE HEARD 'ROUND WORLD

Washington, Feb. 3.—President Wilson kept himself in seclusion during the morning, except for a brief conference with Secretary Lansing, until he left the White House for the Capitol shortly before 2 o'clock.

In preparation for the history-making event, the Senate and House had been called to the Capitol building. Justices of the Supreme Court and members of the Cabinet were present, and the diplomatic gallery was packed, principally with neutrals.

As usual, a committee of Congressmen met the President and escorted him to the Speaker's dais. The whole body rose and cheered as the President, grim-faced and solemn, took his place and began reading the document which is being heard 'round the world.

Not a sound came from floor or galleries but the clear, calm notes of the President reading slowly and distinctly. The assemblage of Senators, Representatives and notables who had listened with closest attention to words which may record one of the number moments of American history if not, indeed, of the world.

Shortly he reviewed how last April the United States warned Germany, after the destruction of the Sussex, that unless the Imperial Government declared and effected an abandonment of that sort of submarine warfare the United States would have no choice but to sever diplomatic relations altogether. Then he quoted from the German reply which gave assurance that no ships would be sunk without warning and provision for safety of passengers and crew.

Germany's Reservation.

He recounted the provision the German Government attached, which in effect reserved to itself the right to restrict its promise if the United States did not secure relaxation of the British naval restrictions on commerce, and then quoted from the reply of the United States which refused to