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and military forces of the United States and the resources of the Government to carry on war against the Government of Italy; and, to bring the conflict to a successful termination, all of the resources of the country are hereby pledged by the Congress of the United States.

“Approved, December 11, 1941, 3:06 p. m., E. S. T.”

## XXV. DECLARATIONS OF A STATE OF WAR BY THE AXIS COUNTRIES

### GERMAN DECLARATION

(Dept. of State Bulletin, Vol. V, No. 129, Dec. 13, 1941)

The German Chargé d’Affaires, Dr. Hans Thomsen, and the First Secretary of the German Embassy, Mr. von Stempel, called at the State Department at 8:20 a. m. on December 11, 1941. The Secretary, otherwise engaged, directed that they be received by the Chief of the European Division of the State Department, Mr. Ray Atherton. Mr. Atherton received the German representatives at 9:30 a. m.

The German representatives handed to Mr. Atherton a copy of a note that is being delivered this morning, December 11, to the American Chargé d’Affaires in Berlin. Dr. Thomsen said that Germany considers herself in a state of war with the United States. He asked that the appropriate measures be taken for the departure of himself, the members of the German Embassy, and staff in this country. He reminded Mr. Atherton that the German Government had previously expressed its willingness to grant the same treatment to American press correspondents in Germany as that accorded the American official staff on a reciprocal basis and added that he assumed that the de-

parture of other American citizens from Germany would be permitted on the same basis of German citizens desiring to leave this country. He referred to the exchange of civilians that had been arranged at the time Great Britain and Germany broke off diplomatic relations.

The German Chargé d'Affaires then stated that the Swiss Government would take over German interests in this country and that Dr. Bruggmann had already received appropriate instructions from his Government.

He then handed Mr. Atherton the note from the German Government. Mr. Atherton stated that in accepting this note from the German Chargé d'Affaires he was merely formalizing the realization that the Government and people of this country had faced since the outbreak of the war in 1939 of the threat and purposes of the German Government and the Nazi regime toward this hemisphere and our free American civilization.

Mr. Atherton then said that this Government would arrange for the delivery of Dr. Thomsen's passports and that he assumed that we would very shortly be in communication with the Swiss Minister. He added that Dr. Thomsen must realize, however, that the physical difficulties of the situation would demand a certain amount of time in working out this reciprocal arrangement for the departure of the missions of the two countries. The German representatives then took their leave.

The text of the note which the German representatives handed to Mr. Ray Atherton, Chief of the European Division of the State Department, at 9:30 a. m., December 11, the original of which

had been delivered the morning of December 11 to the American Chargé d’Affaires in Berlin, follows:

“MR. CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES:

“The Government of the United States having violated in the most flagrant manner and in ever increasing measure all rules of neutrality in favor of the adversaries of Germany and having continually been guilty of the most severe provocations toward Germany ever since the outbreak of the European war, provoked by the British declaration of war against Germany on September 3, 1939, has finally resorted to open military acts of aggression.

“On September 11, 1941, the President of the United States publicly declared that he had ordered the American Navy and Air Force to shoot on sight at any German war vessel. In his speech of October 27, 1941, he once more expressly affirmed that this order was in force. Acting under this order, vessels of the American Navy, since early September 1941, have systematically attacked German naval forces. Thus, American destroyers, as for instance the *Greer*, the *Kearney* and the *Reuben James*, have opened fire on German submarines according to plan. The Secretary of the American Navy, Mr. Knox, himself confirmed that American destroyers attacked German submarines.

“Furthermore, the naval forces of the United States, under order of their Government and contrary to international law have treated and seized German merchant vessels on the high seas as enemy ships.

“The German Government therefore establishes the following facts:

“Although Germany on her part has strictly adhered to the rules of international law in her relations with the United States during every period of the present war, the Government of the United States from initial violations of neutrality has finally proceeded to open acts of war against Germany. The Government of the United States has thereby virtually created a state of war.

“The German Government, consequently, discontinues diplomatic relations with the United States of America and declares that under these circumstances brought about by

President Roosevelt Germany too, as from today, considers herself as being in a state of war with the United States of America.

“Accept, Mr. Chargé d’Affaires, the expression of my high consideration.

RIBBENTROP”

“DECEMBER 11, 1941.”

#### ITALIAN DECLARATION

The Italian Foreign Minister, Count Ciano, sent for the American Chargé d’Affaires, Mr. George Wadsworth, at Rome at 2:30 the afternoon of December 11, and when Mr. Wadsworth arrived at his office Count Ciano informed him that as of December 11, 1941 Italy considers itself at war with the United States.

The Italian Ambassador, accompanied by Signor Conti, First Secretary of the Embassy, called on the morning of December 11 at Mr. Dunn’s office at 10:30 to inform the Department that he was without instructions from his Government and to inquire as to his status. When he was informed that the Italian Government had notified the American Chargé d’Affaires in Rome December 11 that Italy considered itself at war with the United States the Ambassador asked that measures be taken to permit the staff of the Embassy to make their final arrangements for departure from the United States. He added that many Italian nationals in this country had requested that they be allowed to depart with the Italian diplomatic mission. He was informed that all arrangements for the departure of the Italian mission from this country and the treatment of Italian nationals would be dealt with strictly on a reciprocal basis in accordance with the treatment given by the Italian Govern-

ment to the American diplomatic mission and American nationals in Italy.

The Italian Ambassador was informed that we had long expected Germany to carry out its threat against this hemisphere and the United States and that we fully anticipated that Italy would obediently follow along.

#### HUNGARIAN DECLARATION

The Hungarian Prime Minister at 8 p. m. the evening of December 11 informed the American Minister that in view of the solidarity of Central European states, which he compared with the solidarity of the republics of the Western Hemisphere, Hungary was obliged to break diplomatic relations with the United States. He said that this was not with the intention of declaring war on this country.

The Prime Minister observed that he would have to consult with Berlin concerning the means, time, and route of departure of the diplomatic mission.

The American Minister in Budapest, Hungary, has informed the Department that the Hungarian Prime Minister informed him at 5:30 p. m., December 13, that Hungary considers war to exist between Hungary and the United States.

#### RUMANIAN DECLARATION

The American Legation in Bucharest, Rumania, has informed the Department that the Secretary General of the Rumanian Foreign Office had delivered a note to the Legation dated December 12, 1941, a translation of which follows:

“The Royal Rumanian Government has the honor to communicate to the Government of the United States of America that, in conformity with the dispositions of the

Tripartite Pact and respecting the obligations of solidarity contained in this pact, as a result of the state of war which has arisen between the United States of America on the one hand, and the German Reich, Italy and Japan on the other, Rumania herself is in a state of war with the United States of America."

#### BULGARIAN DECLARATION

The American Minister in Sofia, Bulgaria, informed the Department on December 13, 1941 that the Bulgarian Government had just declared to Parliament that in accordance with article 3 of the Tripartite Pact Bulgaria is in a state of war with England and the United States. He added that he was expecting official notification from the Foreign Office momentarily.

#### JAPANESE DECLARATION

(New York Times, Dec. 9, 1941)

We, by grace of Heaven, Emperor of Japan and seated on the throne of a line unbroken for ages eternal, enjoin upon thee, our loyal and brave subjects. We hereby declare war upon the United States of America and the British Empire.

The men and officers of our army and navy shall do their utmost in prosecuting the war. Our public servants of various departments will perform faithfully and diligently their appointed duties. The entire nation with united will shall mobilize its total strength so that nothing will miscarry in the attainment of our royal aims.

To insure the solidity of these ages and to contribute to world peace is the far-sighted policy which was formulated by our great, illustrious imperial grandsire's and our great imperial sire's ex-

perience, and which we lay constantly to heart to cultivate friendship among nations and to enjoy prosperity in common with all nations.

It has been truly unavoidable and far from our wishes that our Empire has now been brought to crossed swords with America and Britain. More than four years have passed since China, failing to comprehend the true intentions of our empire, and recklessly causing trouble, disturbed the peace of East Asia and compelled our Empire to take up arms.

Although there has been reestablished the National Government of China, with which Japan has effected neighborly intercourse and cooperation, the regime that has survived at Chungking, relying upon American and British protection, continues its opposition.

Eager for the realization of their ambitions to dominate the Orient, both America and Britain, by supporting the Chungking regime, have aggravated disturbances in East Asia. Moreover, these two powers, inducing other countries to follow suit, increased military preparations on all sides of our Empire to challenge us. They have obstructed by every means our peaceful commerce and finally resorted to a direct severance of economic relations menacing gravely the existence of our Empire.

Patiently have we waited and long have we endured in the hope that our government might retrieve the situation in peace, but our adversaries, showing not the least spirit of conciliation, have unduly delayed a settlement and in the meantime they have intensified the economic and political pressure to compel our empire to submit.



This turn of affairs would, if left unchecked, not only nullify our empire's efforts to stabilize East Asia, but also endanger the very existence of our nation.

The situation being such as it is, our empire, for its existence and self-defense, has no other recourse but to appeal to arms and to crush every obstacle in its path.

We rely upon the loyalty and courage of our subjects in our confident expectation that the task bequeathed by our forefathers will be carried forward and that the sources of evil will be speedily eradicated and an enduring peace established in East Asia, preserving thereby the glory of our empire.

## XXVI. TURKISH DECLARATION OF NEUTRALITY

(Dept. of State Bulletin, Vol. V, No. 129, Dec. 13, 1941)

The Department of State has received the following note from the Turkish Ambassador, Mr. M. M. Ertegun:

"DECEMBER 14, 1941.

"MR. SECRETARY OF STATE:

"I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that in a telegram dated Ankara, December 10, 1941, but received in Washington only this morning, I am directed by my Government to notify the Government of the United States of America that the Government of the Republic has decided to extend the neutrality of Turkey to the new conflict which has just broken out.

"Please accept, Mr. Secretary of State, the assurance of my highest consideration.

M. M. ERTEGUN"