

International Law Studies—Volume 41

INTERNATIONAL LAW DOCUMENTS

1941

U.S. Naval War College (Editor)

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Government, the U.S. Department of the Navy or the Naval War College.

we have grown fat and flabby and lazy—and that we are doomed.

But those who say that know nothing of America or of American life.

They do not know that this land is great because it is a land of endless challenge. Our country was first populated, and it has been steadily developed, by men and women in whom there burned the spirit of adventure and restlessness and individual independence which will not tolerate oppression.

Ours has been a story of vigorous challenges which have been accepted and overcome—challenges of uncharted seas, of wild forests and desert plains, of raging floods and withering drought, of foreign tyrants and domestic strife, of staggering problems—social, economic, and physical; and we have come out of them the most powerful nation—and the freest—in all of history.

Today in the face of this newest and greatest challenge, we Americans have cleared our decks and taken our battle stations. We stand ready in the defense of our Nation and the faith of our fathers to do what God has given us the power to see as our full duty.

XI. CLAIMS AGAINST GERMANY IN THE CASE OF THE "ROBIN MOOR"

(Dept. of State Bulletin, Vol. V, No. 124, Nov. 8, 1941)

On June 20, 1941 the State Department sent to the German Embassy in Washington, for the information of the German Government, the President's message to the Congress regarding the sinking of the *Robin Moor*. The German Chargé d'Affaires replied on June 24, 1941 as follows:

“WASHINGTON, D. C.,
“June 24, 1941.

“MR. UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE :

“In reply to your note of the 20th of this month, I have the honor to advise you that I do not find myself in a position to pass on, in accordance with your request, the text sent to me of a message to Congress from the President of the United States of America for the information of my Government.

“Accept [etc.]

THOMSEN”

On September 19 the Department sent a further note to the German Embassy, the text of which is as follows :

“SEPTEMBER 19, 1941.

“SIR :

“Reference is made to the Department’s communication of June 20, 1941, with which there was transmitted, by direction of the President of the United States, a copy of a message addressed on that date by the President to the Congress of the United States in which it was stated that the German Government would be expected to make full reparation for the losses and damages sustained by American nationals as a consequence of the unlawful sinking of the American vessel *Robin Moor* by a German submarine on May 21, 1941 in the south Atlantic Ocean.

“I now have to inform you that after an investigation undertaken for the purpose of ascertaining the extent of the losses and damages sustained, and with a view to effecting a prompt liquidation of the matter, the Government of the United States is prepared to accept, for appropriate distribution by it, the lump sum of \$2,967,092.00, currency of the United States, in satisfaction and full settlement of all claims of the United States and its nationals against the German Government for losses and damages sustained as a consequence of the sinking, subject, however, to the condition that payment of that sum by the German Government be effected at Washington within ninety days from this date. While the sum mentioned includes an amount representing the value of property of this Government which

was on board the vessel, no item of punitive damages is included.

“Accept [etc.]

CORDELL HULL”

This last note was acknowledged by the German Embassy on the same day with a statement that the contents of the note had been transmitted to the German Government.

Later, on September 26, the German Embassy the following communication to the Department of State:

“WASHINGTON, D. C.,

“September 26, 1941.

“MR. SECRETARY OF STATE:

“On the 19th day of this month you sent me a new note with reference to your communication of June 20 of this year concerning the American steamer *Robin Moor*. I have the honor to reply to you herewith that the two communications made are not such as to lead to an appropriate reply by my Government. In this regard I refer to my note of June 25th [June 24] of this year.

“Accept [etc.]

THOMSEN”

XII. REVISION OF THE NEUTRALITY ACT OF 1939

LETTER OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE SPEAKER AND THE MAJORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE

(Dept. of State Bulletin, Vol. V, No. 125, Nov. 15, 1941)

The text of a letter addressed by the President to the Honorable Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House, and the Honorable John W. McCormack, Majority Leader of the House, follows:

“MY DEAR MR. SPEAKER AND MR. McCORMACK:

“I had had no thought of expressing to the House my views of the effect, in foreign countries and especially in Germany, of favorable or unfavorable action on the Senate amendments.