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International Law Topics: Neutrality Proclamations and Regulations with Notes

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The thoughts and opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily of the U.S. government, the U.S. Department of the Navy or the Naval War College.
Neutralité Declaration, Uruguay.

URUGUAY.

Declaration of neutrality, August 4, 1914.1


MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Montevideo, August 4, 1914.

In view of the communications received from the legation of Germany and from the consulate of Russia, concerning the declaration of war between Germany and France on the 1st instant.

The President of the Republic decrees:

ARTICLE 1. Receipt of the communications will be acknowledged by stating that the necessary instructions will be given for the observance of the duties which adhere to Uruguay as a neutral country in the presence of the said war.

ART. 2. The ministries of foreign relations and of war and navy are charged with the execution of the present decree and of the others which accompany it.

ART. 3. Let it be communicated, inserted, and published.

BATTLE Y ORDÓÑEZ.
BALTASAR BRUM.

Maritime rules of neutrality which ought to be observed in all the ports, roadsteads and territorial and jurisdictional waters of the Republic of Uruguay. August 7, 1914.

[Registro Nacional, 1914, p. 393.]

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS,
MINISTRY OF WAR AND NAVY,
Montevideo, August 7, 1914.

In view of

The provisions of the Conventions of The Hague of 1907, adopted by practically all the maritime and other nations, and in conformity with the principles of international law;

The provisions contained in the three rules of the convention between England and the United States of May 8, 1871,2 considered equally applicable in the general practice with respect to the duties of neutral countries in case of maritime war:

Articles 139, 140, 142, 143, 144, and 145 of the Penal Code of the Republic relative to crimes against the law of nations;

The President of the Republic decrees:

ARTICLE 1. In case of war between two or more countries, the Republic remaining neutral, the following rules will be applied

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1 Similar declarations were issued in reference to war between Germany and Belgium and England, August 7, 1914; France and Austria-Hungary, August 14, 1914; Austria-Hungary and England and Russia, August 14, 1914; Turkey and France, November 6, 1914; Turkey and England, November 6, 1914.

2 Treaty of Washington, art. 6, Malloy, Treaties, p. 703.
Use of Territorial Waters.

with respect to the ports, roadsteads, and territorial waters of the same.

Art. 2. In accordance with the principle established by the treaty of Montevideo in 1889 (Penal Law, article 12), and with the principles generally accepted in these matters, the waters will be considered as territorial waters to a distance of 5 miles from the coast of the mainland and islands, from the visible outlying shoals, and the fixed marks which determine the limit of the banks not visible. With regard to bays, the distance of 5 miles will be measured along a straight line run across the bay at the point nearest its entrance. In addition to the bays or roadsteads established as such by law and custom, those places on the coast will be considered as such which possess their characteristic form and also have an opening of not more than 10 miles. For the other boundary waters the rule will be according to each case, the middle line, the thatlweg (channel) or the common jurisdiction as determined by the various treaties and situations.

Art. 3. The maximum number of ships of war (battleships, battle cruisers, armored cruisers, armed transports, or scouts) belonging to one belligerent which may be at one time in a port or roadstead of the Republic will be four.

Art. 4. The flotilla vessels (destroyers, torpedo boats, submarines, etc.) will be admitted in groups according to their normal organization. Their number, however, will be restricted to 12.

Art. 5. Belligerent ships of war, with the exception of those on religious, philanthropic, or scientific missions, shall not be permitted to remain in the ports, roadsteads, territorial or jurisdictional waters for a period of more than 72 hours. Within this period shall be included all the time necessary for administrative formalities and intercourse with contractors prior to the final loading of fuel.

Art. 6. If, after the receipts of the notification of the outbreak of hostilities by the Government of the Republic or after it has been universally known that a state of war exists, a belligerent warship is within any port, roadstead, or territorial or jurisdictional waters of Uruguay, it will be notified that it must depart within a period of 72 hours after receiving the notification.

Art. 7. Belligerent vessels of war shall not prolong their stay in the ports or waters of the Republic longer than the designated time unless delayed by injury or by the condition of the sea, and must depart as soon as that cause has ceased to be operative.

Art. 8. Vessels of war will not be permitted to take on more supplies and provisions than they would ordinarily demand in time of peace. With regard to the amount of fuel, they will be permitted to complete their usual supply of coal, unless conditions force a reduction of the allowance.

Art. 9. Belligerent vessels will employ licensed pilots when it is necessary for them to enter or depart from a port or to navigate the territorial or jurisdictional waters.

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Art. 10. Belligerent vessels of war will be obliged to observe all the sanitary, port, customs, and police regulations.

Art. 11. Prizes of war, convoyed or not, will be permitted access to the ports and roadsteads when they are brought in to remain in sequestration awaiting decision by the prize court. In other cases the rules applicable to belligerent vessels of war will govern.

Art. 12. Merchant vessels which are already within or enter the harbors, roadsteads, or territorial or jurisdictional waters during the state of war, and which belong to one of the belligerent nations, will be asked by the maritime authorities, immediately upon their entrance or after the rules concerning the state of war are in operation, as to the nature of the business which they propose to carry on in the ports and waters of the Republic. If they declare themselves to be a part of the reserve of the navy of their respective nations, and that they wish to enjoy the prerogatives of vessels of war, the rules hitherto set forth in articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 will be applicable to them. If they declare that they are engaged solely in legal commercial operations, they will be required to limit themselves to these, and investigation will be made to see whether they have contraband on board or carry articles which may be used to transform them in the port or on the high seas into privateers or vessels capable of military use. If the existence of such articles be proved, their disembarkation will be required (to remain in deposit until the condition of war has ceased), and in case of refusal the rules relating to vessels of war will be applied and departure will be required at the end of 24 hours.

Art. 13. All ships will be prohibited from using their radio apparatus while they are in the ports or waters of the Republic.

Art. 14. The following articles are declared to be contraband of war according to the intent of the provisions of the first paragraph of article 141 of the Penal Code: All classes of arms, military apparatus, cannon, howitzers, machine guns, revolvers, bombs, torpedoes and other firearms, explosives, or inflammables; side arms; powder and fulminating substances; military engineering implements; helmets, cuirasses, harnesses, saddles and bridles; uniforms; vessels of war and their parts (turrets, armor plate, rams, etc.); all instruments and objects especially manufactured for military purposes for use on land or sea; naval munitions; wood for the construction of vessels and materials destined for the construction or the repair of vessels; and substances and machines for the manufacture of munitions of war (nitrates and phosphates for fertilizing purposes are excepted according to the Declaration of London of 1909).

Art. 15. The maritime authorities will see that the merchant vessels load no contraband of war nor articles capable of being used to convert vessels into privateers or of vessels adaptable to military purposes; nor shall troops or crews be recruited in the ports or waters of the Republic. To this end the papers of the
vessels will be carefully examined, and in case they are not regular as to the cargo or the proposed business of the vessel, its departure will be requested within 24 hours without further operations, unless it submit to the measures required by the authorities in order to guarantee the requirements of neutrality.

Art. 16. Infractions, aside from these measures of protection and sequestration of articles of contraband, will be submitted to judicial authority under the provisions and statutes of the Penal Code.

Art. 17. Let it be communicated, inserted, and published.

BATLLE Y ORDÓNEZ.
BALTASAR BRU M.
JUAN BERNASSA Y JEREZ.

Decree forbidding the flying of the flag by vessels belonging to belligerent countries. August 18, 1914.

[Registro Nacional, 1914, p. 409.]

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Montevideo, August 18, 1914.

In view of—

1. The communication of the consul general in Brazil in reference to the anxiety of a Brazilian concern which wishes to take the Uruguayan flag for a steamer which actually flies the flag of a belligerent power;

2. The declaration of the London Naval Conference of February 26, 1909, article 56, which says: "The transfer of an enemy vessel to a neutral flag, effected after the opening of hostilities, is void unless it is proved that such transfer was not made in order to evade the consequences which the enemy character of the vessel would involve."

3. The difficulty, in the case in question, of establishing any other object than that foreseen by the declaration cited, since it is not a question of a vessel acquired by a Uruguayan company or person and for the service of that concern and for the advantage of the country whose flag it wishes to take;

The President of the Republic resolves and decrees:

ARTICLE 1. In the circumstances in question, the permission to fly the flag as a Uruguayan vessel by a vessel which flies the flag of a belligerent country is not considered applicable.

Art. 2. Let it be communicated, inserted, and published.

BATLLE Y ORDÓNEZ.
BALTASAR BRU M.
Radio Rules, Uruguay.

Prohibition in national ports, in territorial waters, and in the interior of all radio communications with vessels of war or commerce. August 31, 1914.

[Registro Nacional, 1914, p. 435.]

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS,
MINISTRY OF WAR AND NAVY.
Montevideo, September 1, 1914.

In view of:

(1) The provisions of article 13 of the decree of August 7 of the present month, concerning the use of radio apparatus by vessels which are in the ports or waters of the Republic, and (2) articles 8 of the international telegraphic convention of St. Petersburg, 17 of the radio conventions of Berlin and London, and 5 and 25 of convention XIII of The Hague, 1917;

The President of the Republic decrees:

ARTICLE 1. All radio communication from one ship to another, either of war or of commerce, is forbidden in ports, jurisdictional and territorial waters.

ART. 2. Radio communication coming from ships or addressed to them ought to be clearly written and in the Spanish, French, English, German, Italian, or Portuguese languages. Abbreviations and conventional addresses and signatures are also forbidden in telegrams. Telegrams proceeding from Governments or legations can pass in a cipher or conventional language on condition that they carry clear proof of their origin.

ART. 3. Radio stations will advise every war or merchant vessel which enters the territorial or jurisdictional waters that it is forbidden to make use of its apparatus except in case of danger, and in that case to direct its messages only to the coast stations.

ART. 4. The stations which have noticed any communication between vessels which are in the territorial or jurisdictional waters will give the notice provided by article 3 and will immediately bring the matter to the attention of the maritime authorities by transmitting the text of any communication which they may have received.

ART. 5. Without prejudice to the penalties applicable for disobedience to the orders of the authorities, all vessels which, in the ports or waters of the Republic, shall violate the provisions of the present decree will be obliged to dismantle their telegraphic apparatus, and whenever this measure can not be applied they will be forbidden access to the ports. (Art. 9 of Hague convention XIII, 1907.)

ART. 6. The general inspection of radiotelegraphy is charged with the execution of the provisions of the present decree.

ART. 7. Let it be communicated, inserted, and published.

BATLLE Y ORDOÑEZ.
BALTASAR BRUM.
JUAN BERNASSA Y JEREZ.

2 Charles, Treaties, pp. 151, 185.
Armed Merchant Vessels.

Addition to the decree of August 7, 1914, determining the duties of countries as neutral powers in that which concerns merchant vessels armed for defense. September 8, 1914.

[Registro Nacional, 1914, p. 442.]

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS.
MINISTRY OF WAR AND NAVY.

In view of

1. The doubts which have arisen for the maritime authorities as to the meaning of the rules contained in articles 12 and 15 of the decree of August 7, 1914, concerning ships which, while declaring that they are engaged only in commercial operations, carry on board arms which might serve for hostile ends;

2. Article 8 of convention xiii of The Hague, which imposes the obligation upon neutral Governments to use all means at their disposal to prevent in their jurisdiction the arming of vessels for privateering or participating in any hostile operations against a power with which they are at peace and for preventing the departure of a vessel under those conditions;

3. That it can and ought to be considered as compatible with the carrying out of legitimate commercial operations, that the vessels be armed for defense, if at the same time these vessels by other conditions of their equipment and their navigation, present sufficient guaranty of their true character.

The President of the Republic decrees:

ARTICLE 1. Vessels which arrive at the ports of the Republic carrying cargoes and passengers as in the normal course of navigation will be regarded as devoted to commerce even if they have arms on board. Each vessel will be required to make an express declaration in writing:

(1) That it is engaged in commerce;

(2) That it will not be transformed into a privateer;

(3) That the arms which it has on board will be used only to defend the vessel in case of attack.

Art. 2. If the authorities have doubts as to the destination of the arms or munitions which the vessel carries, as to their quantity, disposition, etc., they will proceed conformably to the provisions of the decree of August 7.

Art. 3. A merchant vessel which does not carry passengers or cargo will be considered as having that character even if it carries arms, if the legation of the country to which it belongs makes a declaration in writing to the ministry of foreign relations equivalent to that suggested in article 1.

Art. 4. The falsity of the declarations referred to in article 1 will give occasion for the application of the provisions of article 9 of convention xiii of The Hague and of that which results from it when the vessel is under the jurisdiction of the Republic.

Art. 5. Let it be communicated, inserted, and published.

Batlle y Ordóñez.
Baltasar Brum.
Juan Bernassa y Jerez.
Radio Rules, Uruguay.

Addition to the decree of August 31, 1914, which prohibits in national ports, territorial waters, and in the interior all radio communication with war or merchant vessels. September 29, 1914.

[Registro Nacional, 1914, p. 485.]

MINISTRY OF WAR AND NAVY,
Montevideo, September 29, 1914.

Considering that it is necessary to amend the decree of August 31, last, relative to radio communication in the ports and territorial and jurisdictional waters:

The President of the Republic decrees:

ARTICLE 1. Vessels which for any reason sojourn in the ports or roadsteads more than 72 hours should have their radio apparatus dismantled in such a manner that they can neither send nor receive communications.

Art. 2. The general inspection of radiotelegraphy, in cooperation with the maritime authorities, will take the measures necessary for the execution of the present decree.

Art. 3. Let it be communicated, inserted, and published.

BATLLE Y ORDOÑEZ.
BALTASAR BRUM.
JUAN BERNASSA Y JEREZ.

Regulation on the installation and use of radiotelegraphy on land and on vessels; national or foreign, in the ports or waters of the nation. October 20, 1914.

[Registro Nacional, 1914, p. 507.]

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS,
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY,
MINISTRY OF WAR AND NAVY,
Montevideo, October 20, 1914.

In view of

1. The provisions of articles 1, 6, 8, and 21 of the convention of July 5, 1912,1 on radiotelegraphy, and article 9 of the additional regulations referring to the obligations concerning the international rules applicable to all stations; to communication between the authorities of stations established in each country; to the means of preventing interference with the service of each of the stations by the others; and to the necessity of an authorization for the operation of the stations, etc.

2. Article 3 of convention v and article 25 of convention xiii of The Hague, 1907, and

3. The decrees of August 31 and September 29, 1914, on the limitation of the use of radio apparatus;

The President of the Republic decrees:

ARTICLE 1. No person or company can establish radio stations nor install nor operate radio apparatus on land or on national vessels without a permit from the Executive power.

1 Chartes, Treaties, pp. 185.
Art. 2. No use can be made of apparatus installed on vessels lying in the ports or territorial or jurisdictional waters of the Republic except in accord with the orders of the national authority.

Art. 3. In making a request for authorization to install or operate radio stations or apparatus, a declaration must be made of (a) the class of apparatus, with specification of the power and source of energy; (b) the use to which it is to be put; (c) the place or vessel where it will be installed; (d) the name of the person or company, proprietor of the place or vessel and its nationality, the whole accompanied by documentary evidence; (e) a sketch of the interior and exterior of the installation, with description of measurements.

Art. 4. The Executive power reserves to itself the right to or not to authorize the operation of the station or apparatus, as well as that of demanding any information or supplementary document in order to determine in each case the possibility of the authorization.

Art. 5. Under the name of radiotelegraph is included all classes of apparatus of the Marconi, Telefunken, Rochefort, and other systems for the transmission of communications without metal wires or cables. telegraphic apparatus employed for the same use, and all equivalent mechanisms or means, such as optical apparatus, lights, flags, etc.

Art. 6. The requests for all matters relative to this decree will be presented to the ministry of war and navy.

Art. 7. All persons or companies who have radio stations or apparatus on land, or on national or foreign vessels at anchor to remain more than three days in the ports or waters of the Republic, ought to communicate before 10 hours with the ministry of war and navy, conformably to the provisions of article 3.

Art. 8. After the delay provided in article 7, all stations and installations made in contravention of the provisions in force will be dismantled and rendered unusable.

Art. 9. The maritime authorities, the national telegraph, and the electrical works of Montevideo will give to the national inspection of radiotelegraphy the cooperation necessary to prove the existence of radio stations or installations, and for an exact application of the provisions of the present decree. The same cooperation will be solicited of private telegraph and telephone companies.

Art. 10. Infraction of the provisions of the present decree will be punished by the penalties provided in section ix of book ii, title iii, of the penal code without prejudice to the right of dismantling all apparatus and installations or the measures indicated by the decrees of August 31 and September 29, 1914.

Art. 11. Let it be communicated, inserted, and published.

BATTLE y ORDóÑEZ.
BALTASAR BRUM.
JOSÉ RAMASSO.
JUAN BERNASSA Y JEREZ.
Contraband Rules, Uruguay.

Determination of the products and articles which the Republic does not consider contraband of war and the risk of which will be at the account of those interested. October 20, 1914.

[Registro Nacional, 1914, p. 509.]

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS,
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY,
Montevideo, October 20, 1914.

In view of

1. Article 18 of Convention v of The Hague, 1907, which refers to the supplying of belligerents;

2. Articles 22, 23, 24, 28, 29 (chapter ii) of the Declaration of London of 1909 on the classification of contraband of war and the exceptions; and the provisions of the same chapter ii and of chapter iii on the confiscation of goods and ships and unneutral service;

3. Article 14 of the decree of August 7, 1914, which contains the declaration of contraband of war; and article 141, paragraph 1, of the penal code;

4. That it is possible to authorize commerce with the belligerents in articles which the legislature of the Republic does not consider contraband of war even if they are among those which the Declaration of London considers absolute or conditional contraband;

5. That the commerce to which the preceding sentence refers ought to be carried on in all cases at the account of and at the risk of the merchants, contractors, and purchasers, thus excluding all responsibility of the State in case of confiscation.

The President of the Republic decrees:

ARTICLE 1. The sale is declared legal of supplies of forage and grain suitable for the feeding of animals, of garments, textiles, and footwear, of tanned hides, of horses and mules, of herds of cattle, sheep, and hogs on foot, even if they have been purchased for the armies at war.

ART. 2. According to articles 28 and 29 of the Declaration of London, the following articles are not considered contraband of war: Wool and raw material of the textile industry as well as yarns, oil seeds, rawhides, and horns; manures for agricultural purposes; minerals, earths, clays, lime, chalk, stone, marble, bricks, tiles; soaps, paints, colors, and materials used in their manufacture, and varnishes; paper and material prepared for its manufacture; feathers of all kinds, hairs, and bristles; articles of household furniture and decorations; office furniture and accessories; articles and materials serving exclusively for the care of the sick and wounded (subject, however, to the right of requisition on payment of value in case they are destined to the territory of an enemy or territory occupied by him or by his forces); articles and materials intended for the use of the vessel in which
Rules as to War Vessels.

they are found as well as those for the use of her crew and passengers during the voyage.

Art. 3. The charterer should take account of the risk according to the provisions of chapters ii and iii of the Declaration of London, and especially of the fact that the neutral vessel is considered subject to confiscation when it is loaded in whole by a belligerent Government.

Art. 4. In case of confiscation of cargoes or vessels coming from the Republic, as in other risks and conflicts which may be presented to the shippers and consignors, they will be considered according to the rules of the relevant legislation in force before the departure of the vessel from the Uruguayan port, and in this case, when once the voyage has begun, residence excludes all intervention of a diplomatic character by Uruguay.

Art. 5. Let it be communicated, inserted, and published.

BATLLE Y ORDOÑEZ.
BALTASAR BRUM.
JOSÉ RAMASSO.

New maritime rules to be observed in reference to belligerent vessels of war. December 14, 1914.1

[Registro Nacional, 1914; 582.]

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS,
MINISTRY OF WAR AND NAVY,
Montevideo, December 14, 1914.

In view of
1. Articles 12 and 15 of the decree of August 7, 1914, and the decree of September 8, 1914, which refer to merchant vessels and to the conditions and formalities for recognizing this character, to the effects of sojourn in the ports of the Republic to take on supplies, etc.;

2. The opportunity of completing and defining the rules which serve to determine with entire impartiality the character of vessels and the observance of the principles and the rules of neutrality;

3. The authoritative precedents in the rules issued by the United States of America and other American countries;

4. The situation of the ports of the Republic in reference to the great lines of navigation, their situation as furnishers on a great scale of coal and general supplies for the marine, the distances to the ports of neighboring countries frequently entered, and other peculiar circumstances;

The President of the Republic decrees:

ARTICLE 1. With the object of preventing the ports of the Republic from being used as bases of operations for belligerent warships the following rules will be observed:

1 Similar to United States regulation, September 19, 1914. See p. 91.
Rules as to Base of Operations.

(a) It is presumed that a base of operations may exist whenever fuel and supplies for vessels are laden in a port more than once in a period of three months since the commencement of the war or during it, either directly or by the intermediary of auxiliary vessels attached to the belligerent fleet or by the means of merchant vessels of belligerent or neutral nationality which act as auxiliaries.

(b) The simple rumor that a vessel laden with fuel or naval supplies with the intention of delivering its cargo to a belligerent warship on the high seas, when it does not rest on direct or indirect evidence, does not impose on the neutral authorities the duty of detaining the merchant vessel with the object of making an inquiry, unless it is known that this vessel has previously transported provisions for a belligerent warship.

(c) When there is indirect evidence which confirms the rumor or the suspicion that the merchant vessel has the intention of supplying a belligerent warship with fuel or other supplies on the high seas, the suspected vessel will be detained until its intention can be proved. This procedure ought to be followed especially when it is known or a strong suspicion exists that a belligerent warship is at sea just outside of the port where the merchant vessel takes a cargo which might be used for naval supplies; when the merchant vessel is of the nationality of the belligerent to which the warship belongs, the presence of which on the coast is well known; when a merchant vessel which, in its preceding voyage between a Uruguayan port and a neutral port, has reached its port of destination without having on board the cargo of naval supplies taken in the port of departure and desires to take a similar cargo; when agents of a belligerent Government purchase the fuel or other provisions and they are loaded on a merchant vessel which does not clear for a port of a belligerent country but for a neighboring neutral port; and when agents of a belligerent Government take passage on board a merchant vessel which carries a cargo of fuel or other provisions and which is cleared for a neighboring neutral port.

(d) When a merchant vessel laden with fuel or other naval supplies wishes to depart under circumstances giving grounds for strong suspicion that it intends to carry the fuel or supplies to a belligerent warship, it will not be detained for that fact alone if the case is isolated and if neither the merchant vessel nor the warship to which the supplies are supposed to be destined have previously loaded similar supplies since the beginning of the war or within the period of three months.

(e) For judging whether a belligerent wishes to convert neutral territory into a base of naval operations, it is necessary to take account as an essential idea of the repeated departure from the territory of an auxiliary vessel of a belligerent fleet, or of a merchant vessel in the service of a belligerent, laden with fuel or other naval supplies.
(f) It is not necessary to detain or forbid the loading of a merchant vessel which, having previously taken a cargo of naval supplies in a port of the Republic or a neutral port, has carried them to its destination even when it is a question of an identical cargo and, indeed, when the neutral port of destination might serve as a base of belligerent operations.

(g) The duty of forbidding an act contrary to neutrality is incumbent exclusively on the neutral country whose territory is used as a base; and even if the supplies are transported directly to a naval base established on the territory of a belligerent or on territory under belligerent authority, the Uruguayan authorities are not obliged by any duty of neutrality to limit their cargoes or to detain the vessels or to forbid the trade in any other manner.

Art. 2. Merchant vessels flying the flag of a belligerent country, which are in the ports of the Republic from being compelled to interrupt their voyage because of the state of war, or which arrive at these ports in order to adjust themselves to the state of war, can not depart even if there exists no ground for suspecting that they have the intention of violating neutrality (as prescribed by art. 1) without a declaration of the consular representative of the country in question indicating the ports of call and the port of destination and certifying that the voyage has a purely commercial object.

Art. 3. Whenever a merchant vessel has left or leaves a port of the Republic and it is proved that it has not followed the itinerary declared by the consul, it can not carry on operations in any port and it can enter only to remain at the place the authorities assign to it until the end of the war, without prejudice to measures relating to the false declaration of the consul or to the fault of the owner or the captain.

Art. 4. To prevent the clandestine departure of merchant vessels in port the authorities will observe the following provisions:

(a) Not to permit vessels to begin loading supplies before making the declarations and guaranties provided in article 2.

(b) To require them to discharge all fuel and provisions which are not strictly necessary for the requirements of their sojourn in port.

(c) To assign them an anchorage which permits the best surveillance.

(d) To take all other measures of precaution (such as preventing the operation of machinery) without prejudice to the security and the good conservation of the vessel.

Art. 5. The provisions of the present decree will apply to merchant vessels which are in the ports of the Republic at the date of the decree and to those which arrive up to the end of the war.

Art. 6. Let it be communicated, inserted, and published.

BATTLE Y ORDÓÑEZ.
BALTASAR BRUM.
JUAN BERNASSA Y JEREZ.
Regulations relative to the supply of coal which belligerent vessels of war can take in the ports of the Republic. December 15, 1914.

[Registro Nacional, 1914, p. 585.]

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS,
MINISTRY OF WAR AND NAVY.
Montevideo, December 15, 1914.

In view of
1. Articles 5 and 19 of convention xiii of The Hague, 1907;
2. The proposal of the Government of the Republic of Chile\(^1\) relative to the adoption of certain rules proper to better guarantee neutrality, a proposal which merits the approval of this government and which it has taken into account in another decree of the present date;

The President of the Republic decrees:

ARTICLE 1. Belligerent vessels of war can supply themselves in the ports of the Republic with coal only to the extent necessary to gain the first coaling station of a state near to Uruguay.

ART. 2. The authorities will take into account in determining the maximum cargo of fuel the normal consumption of the vessel in reference to its speed and to the distance to the nearest port toward which it is bound.

ART. 3. Paragraph 2 of article 8 of the decree of August 7, 1914, is modified by the present decree.

ART. 4. Let it be communicated, inserted, and published.

BATTLE Y ORDÓÑEZ.
BALTASAR BRUM.
JUAN BERNASSA Y JEREZ.

Limitation of the time of sojourn of belligerent vessels of war in the ports, roadsteads, or waters of the national jurisdiction. December 15, 1914.

[Registro Nacional, 1914, p. 585.]

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS,
MINISTRY OF WAR AND NAVY.
Montevideo, December 15, 1914.

In view of
1. Article 12 of convention xiii of The Hague, 1907, concerning the time of sojourn of belligerent warships in neutral ports, roadsteads, or waters, and article 5 and others of the decree of August 7, 1914, which considers the time of sojourn;

2. The opportunity of putting the provisions in force in the Republic in harmony with those of other countries, in particular the American countries, which have limited to 24 hours the normal time of sojourn of these vessels;

\(^1\) See decree of Chile, December 15, 1914, p. 22.
The President of the Republic decrees:

ARTICLE 1. The time of sojourn in the ports, roadsteads, and waters of the Republic of belligerent vessels of war is limited to 24 hours except in the cases and exceptions provided by convention xiii of The Hague and by articles 5, 7, and 12 of the decree of August 7 conforming to the provisions of that convention.

Art. 2. Let it be communicated, inserted, and published.

Batlle y Ordóñez.
Baltasar Brum.
Juan Bernassa y Jerez.

VENEZUELA.

Declaration of neutrality, August 8, 1914.

MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS,
SECTION OF EXTERNAL PUBLIC LAW,

Caracas, August 8, 1914.

CITIZEN MINISTER OF FINANCE:

As there exists at present a state of war between several nations of Europe with which Venezuela maintains relations of friendship, and the Government of the Republic being desirous to sustain its neutrality in this conflict, deems necessary to make known the rights which, in accordance with the principles and practices of international law and with the obligations of diplomatic treaties, the Republic is called to observe.

To this effect I have the honor to accompany with this note the instructions which in consequence with those principles, with the resolutions of the second peace conference of The Hague of 1907, and with the rules adopted by Venezuela in regard to the pirates of the belligerents, the collectors of customs of the Republic can follow in the cases which may occur, so as to make effective the neutrality which the national government is decidedly disposed to observe in the actual war.

In any case not foreseen in these instructions, the customs officials shall proceed immediately to communicate to this department, through the respective channel, the necessary information to elucidate the character of the case and to the effect of its decision by the national government.

According to the informations which have been obtained up to date confidentially the belligerent nations are: On the one side, Germany and Austria; and on the other, Russia, France, Great Britain, Servia, and Belgium.

Dios y Federacion.

Manuel Diaz Rodriguez.

1 Unless otherwise indicated, the Venezuelan documents are transcripts of the English translations in Estados Unidos de Venezuela, Boletín del Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores 1914, p. 137 et seq. The Spanish text may also be found in El Libro Amarillo de los Estados Unidos de Venezuela, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, 1915, vol. 2, p. 21 et seq.