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.
Note explaining attitude of neutrality, December 4, 1914.

[Libro Rosado de El Salvador, Ano VI, Nos. X, XI y XII, Octubre-Noviembre-Diciembre, 1914, pp. 77-78.]

SAN SALVADOR, 4th of December, 1914.

Mr. Minister: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency’s courteous note, dated the first of this month, in which, acting on instructions from the Department of State in Washington, you ask me to deliver to the legation under the worthy direction of Your Excellency, a complete collection of all public documents, decrees, proclamations, declarations, and orders relative to the present European war which have been issued by the Government of this Republic.

In answer I wish to state to Your Excellency that my Government has not issued any publication, proclamation, declaration, or decrees whatever regarding the European conflict. Its action has been limited to giving instructions to the maritime officials of our ports in order that they may maintain the greatest vigilance in regard to the use of stations of wireless telegraphy by belligerent vessels coming into its waters.

Besides this, my Government has merely addressed to its diplomatic representative accredited to the Department of State in Washington a note dated November 16th last, in reply to the inquiry made to this Government through the agency of the Department, by Count von Bernstorff, Ambassador of Germany near Your Excellency’s Government, to the effect that there be laid before him a copy of the proclamation of neutrality by Salvador in the European conflict. In this note of reply this chancery indicated the following to its diplomatic representative in Washington, in order that thus he should bring it to the knowledge of the Ambassador of Germany and of any other legation of the neutral or belligerent countries which might interrogate him in regard to the same question:

“The use of proclamations of neutrality was introduced when international law had not as yet determined with precision the principles by which the rights and obligations that a state of war creates between neutrals and belligerents were to be governed. Since then it has been observed in cases where a neutral had either a very active commerce with the belligerents or frontiers in common with them; or in cases where warlike supplies may be furnished or when a neutral owned a commercial fleet which might be affected in its communication with belligerents. Our country does not find itself in any of these situations in the present war; and as the state of neutrality and the relations which it establishes are legal conditions which arise from the war itself and from the international principles by which it is regulated, Salvador, by its neutral character, is obliged
strictly to observe these principles of neutrality, principles which
this country does not need to promulgate in the form of a procla-
mation; all such principles are amply expounded in the fourteen
diplomatic conventions subscribed to in the Second Conference
of The Hague in 1907 and in the Naval Convention of London,
the 26th of February, 1909. Consequently Salvador's line of
conduct as a neutral country is clearly marked out in the above-
mentioned treaties of The Hague and in the Convention of Lon-
don. For this reason you will please convey to His Excellency
the Ambassador of Germany, and to whatever other diplomatic
agent should ask information of you on this subject, that the
Government of Salvador has decided to preserve intact the prin-
ciples and rules of the above-mentioned treaties, in conformity
with its character as a neutral country, in the present European
conflict, though it has not thought necessary to make a proclama-
tion expressly to this effect.

I take this occasion to convey to Your Excellency the expres-
sion of my highest and most distinguished considera-
tion.

FRANCISCO MARTINEZ S.

To His Excellency the Honorable Boaz W. Long, Minister
Plenipotentiary of the United States of North America.

SIAM.

Declaration of neutrality, August 6, 1914.

By command of His Majesty the King Maha Vajiravudh Phra
Mongkut Klae.

To all to whom these presents shall come, know ye:

Whereas the III Convention of The Hague, 18th October, 1907,
relative to the opening of hostilities, article 2 says: "The exis-
tence of the state of war must be notified to the neutral powers
without delay, and shall not take effect in regard to them until
after the receipt of the notification, which may, however, be given
by telegraph. Neutral powers, nevertheless, can not rely on the
absence of notification if it is clearly established that they were
in fact aware of the existence of a state of war;" and

Whereas a state of war now exists in Austria-Hungary, France,
Germany, Great Britain, Russia, and Servia; and

Whereas we are happily at peace and on terms of friendship
with each of these sovereigns and chiefs of state and with their
respective subjects and the inhabitants of their respective domin-
ions; and

Whereas we desire that our subjects shall continue to enjoy,
and shall be secured in the enjoyment of, the infinite blessings of
peace; to which end we are determined to maintain a strict and
impartial neutrality in the state of war above mentioned;

Now, therefore, we do issue this our royal proclamation, and
we do hereby order and command all our subjects to observe