

International Law Studies—Volume 17

International Law Documents

Neutrality

Breaking of Diplomatic Relations

War

With Notes

U.S. Naval War College (Editor)

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

URUGUAY.

Decree modifying neutrality regulations in case of war by American countries, June 18, 1917.

[U. S. Official Bulletin No. 35, p. 2.]

Considering that in various communications the Government of Uruguay has proclaimed the principle of American solidarity as the criterion of its international policy, understanding that the grievance against the rights of one country of the continent should be considered as a grievance by all and provoke them to uniform and common reaction ;

Second, that in the hope of seeing an agreement in this respect realized between the nations of America which may make the practical and efficient application of such ideals possible, the Government has adopted a watchful attitude with reference to its action, although it has signified in each case its sympathy with the continental nations which have been seen themselves obliged to abandon their neutrality ;

Considering that, as long as such an agreement is not made, Uruguay, without acting contrary to its sentiments and convictions, could not treat the American nations which in defense of their own rights find themselves compromised in an intercontinental war, as belligerents; and

Considering that this criterion is shared by the Honorable Senate,

The President of the Republic

At a general cabinet meeting

Decrees :

First. To order that no American country which in defense of its own rights should find itself in a state of war with nations of other continents will be treated as belligerents.

Second. That it is ordered that existing decrees which may be in opposition to this resolution are to remain without fulfillment.

Third. Let it be communicated, published, etc.

VIERA.

BALTASAR BRUM.

ARTURO GAYO.

PABLO VARSÍ (HIJO).

FREDERICO VIDIELLA.

RODOLFO MEXXERA.

JUSLINO JIMENEZ DE ARECHAGA.

SANTIAGO RIVAS.

*Decree breaking diplomatic relations with Germany, October 7, 1917.*¹

[U. S. Official Bulletin No. 128, p. 1.]

MONTEVIDEO, *October 7, 1917.*

In view of the authority granted the executive power by law of the nation of this date, authorizing said power to declare diplomatic and commercial relations broken between Uruguay and the Imperial Government and the reasons which have caused the legislative decision which are absolutely shared by the executive power, the President of the Republic at a general cabinet meeting decrees:

ARTICLE 1. From the date of the present decree diplomatic and commercial relations between Uruguay and the German Imperial Government remain broken.

ART. 2. That the respective passports be handed over to the diplomatic representative of that Government, all the guarantees for his personal safety being granted to him at the same time until his removal from the country.

ART. 3. That telegraphic instructions be transmitted to the functionaries of the Republic in office in Germany to the effect that they immediately abandon the German territory, requesting the same guarantees which are granted to the German representative by the Government of Uruguay.

VIERA.

VENEZUELA.

Official statement of neutrality, May 27, 1917.

Our diplomatic relations with the nations have not suffered interruption, and we find ourselves at peace with all. We have known how to adjust our conduct to the rules of international law, preserving the strictest neutrality in the gigantic struggle in which for three years the great European powers have been involved, and no one is able to reproach us with a single infraction of our duty as a neutral. Conforming to this rule of conduct, when on February 24 of the present year the German legation, on orders of its Government, communicated to our chancellery the unprecedented extension it had resolved to give to the submarine war, manifestly departing from the practices accepted up to now, Venezuela responded that it would adjust its procedure to the principles of international law which govern the rights and duties of neutrals. Up to the present time nothing has occurred in which we

¹ By decree of October 15, 1917, the neutrality decrees so far as relating to France, England, Belgium, Italy, Portugal, Russia, Japan, Serbia, Roumania, and Montenegro were revoked, U. S. Off. Bull., No. 136, p. 3.