

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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fly its national flag as well as the international signal indicating the cause of its presence. The vessel shall leave the area as soon as possible after the reason for its presence there has ceased to exist.

This decree shall come into force on the 28th July, 1916.  
Saro, July 19, 1916.

GUSTAF.

## SWITZERLAND.

*Declaration of neutrality, December 12, 1917.*

[Official Bulletin, No. 186, p. 2.]

Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs to United States Chargé Affaires.

DECEMBER 12, 1917.

MR. CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES: In a note of the 3d instant<sup>1</sup> you were kind enough to inform the political department that you had been charged by the Department of State to inform the Federal Council that the presence of American troops in Europe, taking part in the war against the Imperial German Government, had led the Government of the union to inform the Swiss Confederation that, the same as its cobelligerents in Europe, the United States will not fail to observe toward Switzerland the principle of neutrality and inviolability of its territory as long as this neutrality is maintained by the confederation and respected by the enemy.

In the name of the Federal Council I have the honor, in acknowledging this declaration, to beg you to transmit to your Government the thanks of the Federal Council for this new proof of the sentiments of friendship that the United States has always manifested toward Switzerland.

The Federal Council can only renew the declaration of neutrality that it had the honor to notify to Washington April 20, 1917, insisting particularly on its firm and unwavering determination to maintain and defend its neutrality and inviolability of its territory by all means at its disposal against any person.

At the same time the Federal Council has the honor to declare that by virtue of its sovereignty and in accordance with the declaration of the powers who signed the treaties of Vienna and Paris of 1815, in particular that of the 20th of November, the Swiss Confederation, to whom it appertains to take the necessary measures for the defense of its territory, will maintain its neutrality by its own forces and will repel a violation of its frontier if this occurs.

Referring to these acts and to its declaration of neutrality of August 4, 1914,<sup>2</sup> as well as to later declarations, especially the

<sup>1</sup> *Infra* p. 233.

<sup>2</sup> *International Law Topics*, 1916, p. 70.

notification made at Washington by the Swiss minister on April 20, 1917, the Federal Council believes that it appertains only to it to decide in what conditions it might appear opportune to appeal to the assistance of foreign powers. Receive, etc.

ADOR.

## TURKEY.

### *Notification of neutrality, August 18, 1914.*

[Journ. Off., Aug. 18, 1914, p. 7479.]

The Imperial Ottoman Government has made known to the Government of the Republic through its ambassador at Paris that the Sublime Porte is resolved to maintain a strict neutrality in the present war.

### *Neutrality regulations, September 28, 1914.*

[British Parl. Pap., Misc. No. 13 (1914).]

[Inclosure No. 1, in No. 147.—Translation.]

The ministry of foreign affairs, with a view to the observance of their duties of neutrality throughout the hostilities, brings the following regulations to the notice of the British Embassy:

1. Entry to Turkish ports, roadsteads, and territorial waters, is forbidden to warships belonging to belligerent powers, except in the case of damage, or by reason of the state of the sea. In these cases they may only remain strictly the length of time actually necessary for the repair of the said damage, or to wait until the state of the sea has improved.

2. Every belligerent vessel, which shall ask permission to enter a Turkish port or roadstead for purposes of refueling or re-victualing, may be authorized to do so, on condition that the authorization of the local Turkish authority is obtained, after having declared the reasons for her arrival; that she does not remain more than 24 hours in the said port or roadstead; and that there be not more than three vessels under the same flag simultaneously in the same port or roadstead.

3. The ports of Smyrna and Beirut are prohibited to the said ships, as are the inland waters, access to which is barred either by submarine mines or by other defensive means.

4. If the warship does not leave Turkish waters within the period provided for above, the Turkish Government will take such steps as they may deem necessary to render the vessel incapable of putting to sea during the war.

5. Warships are expected to respect the sovereign rights of the Turkish Empire, to refrain from all acts prejudicial to Turkish