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International Law Documents

Neutrality

Breaking of Diplomatic Relations

War

With Notes

U.S. Naval War College (Editor)

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the life of the peoples she governs, showed herself as prompt to sacrifice them as she was powerless to defend them against external attacks. The war, in which almost the whole of Europe is taking part, raises the gravest problems affecting the national development and the very existence of States. Roumania, from a desire to contribute in hastening the end of the conflict, and governed by the necessity of safeguarding her racial interests, finds herself forced to enter into line by the side of those who are able to assure her the realization of her national unity. For these reasons she considers herself from this moment in a state of war with Austria-Hungary.

RUSSIA.

Note relating to declaration of war by Germany, August 2, 1914.

[Russian Orange Book.]

No. 78.—The Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Representatives of His Majesty the Emperor Abroad.

[Telegram.]

ST. PETERSBURG, 20 July–2 August, 1914.

It is absolutely clear that Germany is already endeavoring to throw upon us the responsibility of the rupture. Our mobilization was provoked by the enormous responsibility which we should have incurred if we had not taken all precautionary measures at a moment when Austria, confining herself to *pourparlers* that were only meant to gain time, was bombarding Belgrade and proceeding to a general mobilization.

His Majesty the Emperor had undertaken, by giving his personal word to the Emperor of Germany, not to undertake any aggressive act so long as the *pourparlers* with Austria should continue. After such a guarantee, and after all the proofs of Russia's love for peace, Germany could not and had no right to doubt our declaration that we would accept with joy any pacific issue compatible with the dignity and independence of Serbia. Any other solution would be completely incompatible with our own dignity and would certainly have shaken European equilibrium by insuring the hegemony of Germany. This European, even world-wide, character of the conflict is infinitely more important than the pretext which created it. By its decision to declare war upon us at a moment when the negotiations between the powers were still being carried on, Germany has assumed a heavy responsibility.

SAZONOFF.

Note breaking diplomatic relations with Turkey, October 29, 1914.

[Second Russian Orange Book.]

No. 91. Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs to Russian Ambassador at Constantinople.

[Telegram.]

PETROGRAD, *October 16 (29), 1914.*

The Turks opened hostilities against the unfortified port of Theodosia and the gunboat stationed at the port of Odessa.

Consequently, you will please take steps for the departure of our consular officers, placing the protection of our interests in the hands of the Italian ambassador.

In this connection you will inform the Porte that as a result of the said hostilities you have been ordered to leave Constantinople with all of your subordinate officers.

Communicate to Bordeaux, London, Nish, Sofia, Bucharest, Rome, Athens, and Cetinje.

SAZONOFF.

Notification of breaking diplomatic relations with Turkey, November 2, 1914.

[British Parl. Pap. Misc. No. 13 (1914). See also 2nd Russian Orange Book No. 97.]

No. 182.—Telegram Communicated by Count Benckendorff on November 2, 1914.

[Translation.]

M. Sazonof telegraphs on November 1, 1914, as follows:

“The Turkish chargé d'affaires has just read me the following telegram from the Grand Vizier: ‘I request you to inform the minister for foreign affairs that we infinitely regret that an act of hostility, provoked by the Russian fleet, should have compromised the friendly relations of the two countries. You can assure the Imperial Russian Government that the Sublime Porte will not fail to give the question such solution as it entails, and that they will adopt fitting measures to prevent a recurrence of similar acts. You can declare forthwith to the minister that we have resolved no more to allow the Imperial fleet to enter the Black Sea, and that we trust that the Russian fleet, on their side, will no longer cruise in our waters. I have the firm hope that the Imperial Russian Government will give proof, on this occurrence, of the same spirit of conciliation in the common interests of both countries.’

“I replied to the Turkish chargé d'affaires that I most categorically denied what he had just said respecting the initiation

of hostilities by the Russian fleet; I told him that I feared it was too late to negotiate; that nevertheless, if the Sublime Porte decided upon the immediate dismissal of all the German military and naval officers and men it might be possible to consider the question, and that discussion might not be impossible to reach some basis of satisfaction to be given by Turkey for the illegal act of aggression against our coasts and for the damage thereby inflicted.

“I authorized Fahr-Eddin to send a cipher telegram in this sense, but pointed out to him at the same time that the representation he had made in no way altered the situation. Fahr-Eddin will receive his passports to-morrow, and the reply from the Turkish Government can be sent through the Italian Embassy.”

Note on the occasion of war with Turkey, November 3, 1914.

[Rev. Gen., Doc. 22 : 6.]

Germany and Austria, in their futile struggle against Russia have sought to incite Turkey against that power. Immediately after the perfidious attack by the Turkish fleet conducted by German officers, the Russian Ambassadors at Constantinople received orders to leave the Ottoman Empire with all the personnel of the embassy and of the Russian consulates. It is with a perfect and confident tranquillity, and invoking the aid of God, that Russia will meet this new aggression of the ancient persecutors of the Christian religion and all Slav peoples. It is not for the first time that the valiant armies of Russia will have triumphed over the Turkish hordes. They will know again how to chastise the reckless enemy of our fatherland.

Ultimatum to Bulgaria, October 3, 1915.

Foreign Office to Russian Minister in Bulgaria.

The events which are taking place in Bulgaria at this moment give evidence of a definite decision of King Ferdinand's government to place the fate of its country in the hands of Germany.

The presence of German and Austrian officers at the ministry of war and on the staff of the army, the concentration of troops in the zone bordering Serbia, and the extensive financial support accepted from our enemies by the Sofia cabinet no longer leave any doubt as to the object of the military preparations of Bulgaria.

The powers of the entente, who have at heart the realization of the aspirations of the Bulgarian people, have on many occasions warned M. Radoslavoff that any hostile act against Serbia would be considered as directed against themselves. The assurances given by the head of the Bulgarian cabinet in reply to these warnings are contradicted by the facts.

The representative of Russia, which is bound to Bulgaria by the imperishable memory of her liberation from the Turkish yoke, can not sanction by his presence preparations for fratricidal aggression against a Slav and allied people. The Russian minister has, therefore, received orders to leave Bulgaria with all the staffs of legation and consulates if the Bulgarian Government does not within 24 hours openly break with the enemies of the Slav cause and of Russia and does not at once proceed to send away officers belonging to armies of States which are at war with the powers of the entente.

*Notification of breaking diplomatic relations with Bulgaria,
October 7, 1915.*

Bulgaria's reply to the Russian ultimatum is unsatisfactory. The Russian minister has notified Premier Radoslavoff of a rupture of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Russian interests in Bulgaria have been confided to the Dutch chargé d'affaires.

Bulgaria's reply was delivered at 2.40 o'clock on the afternoon of October 5 (Tuesday).

Proclamation of war against Bulgaria, October 19, 1915.

We hereby make known to all our loyal subjects that the treason of Bulgaria to the Slav cause, prepared with perfidy since the beginning of the war, has now, although it seemed impossible, become an accomplished fact. Bulgarian troops have attacked our loyal ally, Serbia, already bleeding in the struggle against a stronger enemy.

Russia and the great powers, our allies, tried to dissuade the Government of Ferdinand of Coburg from taking this fatal step. The realization of the ancient aspirations of the Bulgar people regarding the annexation of Macedonia was assured to Bulgaria by other means, in conformity with Slav interests, but underhand methods prompted by the Germans and fratricidal hatred of the Serbians triumphed.

Bulgaria, our coreligionist, liberated but a short time ago from the Turkish yoke by the fraternal love of the Russian people, openly took sides with the enemies of the Christian faith, Slavism, and Russia.

The Russian people regard with sorrow the treason of Bulgaria, which was so near to it until these last few days, and, with bleeding heart, it draws its sword against her, leaving the fate of the betrayer of the Slav cause to the just punishment of God.

*Attitude of Salvador, Serbia.**Notification of mined area, November 5, 1914.***Ambassador Marye to the Secretary of State.**

[Telegram.]

AMERICAN EMBASSY,
Petrograd, November 5, 1914.

Russian Government officially notifies embassy that it has placed mines in zone from fifty-eight fifty north latitude and to east of twenty-first meridian also at entrance of Gulf of Riga and around Aland Islands and consequently entrance and exit of Finnish and Riga Gulfs forbidden.

MARYE.

SALVADOR.*Attitude on war between United States and Germany, October 6, 1917.*SAN SALVADOR, SALVADOR, *October 6.*

The United States Government has made an inquiry in regard to the significance of the declaration by the Government of Salvador of neutrality friendly to the United States.

The foreign office has replied that Salvador considers herself associated with the United States by reason of her sentiments in favor of Pan-Americanism, in the world struggle.

SERBIA.*Notification of Austro-Hungarian breaking of diplomatic relations, July 25, 1914.*

[Serbian Blue Book.]

No. 41.—M. Pashtich, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, to All the Royal Legations.BELGRADE, *July 12–25, 1914.*

To-day at 5.45 p. m. I delivered the answer to the Austro-Hungarian note.¹ You will receive to-night the exact text. You will see that we have gone as far as we could go, even to the extreme limit. When he received the note, the minister of Austria-Hungary declared that he must compare it with the instructions and that he would give me the answer immediately. As soon as I had returned to the ministry, the minister of Austria-Hungary in-

¹ *Supra*, p. 42.