

International Law Studies—Volume 17

International Law Documents

Neutrality

Breaking of Diplomatic Relations

War

With Notes

U.S. Naval War College (Editor)

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.

Vessels desirous of entering the Adriatic must proceed to Gallipoli (Apulia), where the safe conducts of entry must be obtained.

For leaving the Adriatic, vessels after having received permission at the port of departure must proceed to Bari, where they will be furnished with the safe conducts of departure.

Vessels provided with safe conducts must cross the blockade line, Otrante-Aspri-Ruga (Strade Bianchi) during daytime only. They must stop on that line at a distance not greater than 5 miles from the Italian shore, to be visited by the men of war destined for that purpose.

ART. 3. The rules laid down in our decree of June 13, 1915, No. 899, as well as any special regulations which the naval authorities may think fit to enforce on vessels entering or leaving the Adriatic, must be observed by all merchant vessels of whatever nationality navigating in the Adriatic, in the circumstances provided for in Article 2.

ART. 4. Vessels contravening the rules laid down in the preceding articles will be considered guilty of violation of blockade, and are liable to capture and confiscation, together with their cargo, according to the regulations in force.

ART. 5. The present decree will come into force on July 6, 1915.

## JAPAN.

### *Ultimatum to Germany, August 15, 1914.*

[Official Japanese Documents; See also Austro-Hungarian Red Book No. 66.]

No. 3.—Telegram dispatched by the Imperial Japanese Government to the chargé d'affaires ad interim at Berlin on August 15, 1914.

You are hereby instructed to address to Herr von Jagow immediately on receipt of this telegram a signed note to the following effect:

The undersigned, chargé d'affaires ad interim of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, has the honor in pursuance of instructions from his Government to communicate to his excellency, the minister for foreign affairs of His Majesty, the German Emperor to the following effect:

Considering it highly important and necessary in the present situation to take measures to remove all causes of disturbance to the peace of the Far East and to safeguard the general interests contemplated by the agreement of alliance between Japan and Great Britain in order to secure a firm and enduring peace in eastern Asia, which is the aim of the said agreement, the Imperial Japanese Government sincerely believe it their duty to give advice

to the Imperial German Government to carry out the following two propositions:

First.—To withdraw immediately from the Japanese and Chinese waters German men-of-war and armed vessels of all kinds and to disarm at once those which can not be so withdrawn;

Second.—To deliver on a date not later than September 15, 1914, to the Imperial Japanese authorities without condition or compensation the entire leased territory of Kiaochou with a view to eventual restoration of the same to China.

The Imperial Japanese Government announce at the same time that in the event of their not receiving by noon August 23, 1914, the answer of the Imperial German Government signifying unconditional acceptance of the above advice offered by the Imperial Japanese Government they will be compelled to take such action as they may deem necessary to meet the situation.

The undersigned, etc.

*Proclamation of war with Germany, noon, August 23, 1914.*<sup>1</sup>

[Official Japanese documents.]

**No. 1.—The imperial rescript issued at Tokio, August 23, 1914, 6 p. m.**

We, by the grace of heaven, Emperor of Japan, seated on the throne occupied by the same dynasty from time immemorial, do hereby make the following proclamation to all our loyal and brave subjects:

We hereby declare war against Germany, and we command our army and navy to carry on hostilities against that Empire with all their strength, and we also command all our competent authorities to make every effort, in pursuance of their respective duties to attain the national aim by all means within the limits of the law of nations.

Since the outbreak of the present war in Europe, calamitous effect of which we view with grave concern, we on our part have entertained hopes of preserving peace of the Far East by the maintenance of strict neutrality, but the action of Germany has at length compelled Great Britain, our ally, to open hostilities against that country, and Germany is at Kiaochou, its leased territory in China, busy with warlike preparations, while its armed vessels cruising seas of eastern Asia are threatening our commerce and that of our ally. Peace of the Far East is thus in jeopardy.

<sup>1</sup> "The Imperial Government of Japan made known to the Government of the Republic, on August 23, 1914, that the council addressed by the Imperial Government to the German Government on the 15th of this month, having remained without reply, Japan is in a state of war with Germany from noon, August 23, 1914." 'Journ. Off., Aug. 26, 1914, p. 7674.)

Accordingly, our Government and that of His Britannic Majesty, after full and frank communication with each other, agreed to take such measures as may be necessary for the protection of the general interests, contemplated in the agreement of alliance, and we on our part being desirous to attain that object by peaceful means commended our Government to offer with sincerity an advice to the Imperial German Government. By the last day appointed for the purpose, however, our Government failed to receive an answer accepting their advice. It is with profound regret that we, in spite of our ardent devotion to the cause of peace, are thus compelled to declare war, especially at this early period of our reign and while we are still in mourning for our lamented mother.

It is our earnest wish that by the loyalty and valor of our faithful subjects peace may soon be restored and the glory of the Empire be enhanced.

*Notification, blockade of Kiao-Chau, August 27, 1914.*

[London Gazette, Sept. 1, 1914, p. 6895.]

FOREIGN OFFICE, *August 29, 1914.*

The secretary of state for foreign affairs has received from his excellency the Japanese ambassador the text of a declaration issued on the 27th instant by the imperial Japanese naval authorities announcing the establishment on that date of a blockade of the whole of the littoral of the leased territory of Kiao-Chau.

The coast line affected extends from a point 120° 10' east and 35° 54' north to a point 120° 36' east and 36° 7' north.

A period of 24 hours was allowed within which vessels of allied or neutral states might leave the blockaded area.

*Notification, raising of blockade of Tsing-Tao, November 10, 1914.*

[Journal Officiel, Nov. 18, 1914, p. 8725; London Gazette, Nov. 17, 1914, p. 9397.]

The Imperial Government of Japan has made known that, in view of the occupation of Tsing-Tao, the blockade declared August 27, 1914, was raised on November 10, 1914.

## LIBERIA.

*Neutrality Proclamation, August 10, 1914.*

### A PROCLAMATION

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Liberia has been informed that a state of war exists in Europe in which the following powers are belligerents: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Russia, and Servia; and,