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International Law Documents

Neutrality

Breaking of Diplomatic Relations

War

With Notes

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apply in respect of such persons and bodies of persons as aforesaid, as if for references therein to trading with the enemy there were substituted references to trading with such persons and bodies of persons as aforesaid, and for references to enemies there were substituted references to such persons and bodies of persons as aforesaid, and for references to offenses under the trading with the enemy acts, 1914 and 1915, or any of those acts there were substituted references to offenses under this act; (4) for the purpose of this act a person shall be deemed to have traded with a person or body of persons to whom a proclamation issued under this act applies if he enters into any transaction or does any act with, to, on behalf of, or for the benefit of such a person or body of persons, which, if entered into or done with, to, on behalf of, or for the benefit of an enemy, would be trading with the enemy.

2. This act may be cited as the trading with the enemy (extension of powers) act, 1915.

## GREECE.

*Provisional government, declaration of war against Germany and Bulgaria, November 24, 1916.*

There is no country in existence which, in its desire for peace, has done more than Greece in the course of the present war to repress its feelings, even to the extent of forgetting its aspirations, or shown so much patience toward rivals who have sought to benefit by the ruin of its interests. The spectacle of Belgium, a little country like Greece, being made the victim of a most insolent violation of solemn treaties, and the fact that that violation was the basis of the war, inclined Greece from the very first to take part in this war of nations. But in the interest of Serbia and in that of the Greek cause generally, Greece deemed it a duty to decide in favor of neutrality. Profiting by past experience of Bulgarian duplicity, however, and having from an early period reasons to suspect that treacherous designs were being entertained, Greece at the same time kept her forces absolutely in reserve in case her efforts should not succeed in preventing a Bulgarian aggression, with a view to going to the assistance of her heroic Serbian ally.

When this eventuality actually occurred, Greece, which at that time was still controlled by her legal Government, was ready loyally to fulfill the obligations of the alliance. But she was deterred by the pernicious effects of a disgraceful campaign which had long been undertaken against the moral unity of the country. As early as February, 1915, the Liberal Cabinet then in power, strong in the almost unanimous support of the representatives of the peo-

ple, decided in principle to secure at once by means of war the fullest aspirations of Hellenism, and to cooperate with the protecting powers in the Dardanelles expedition. The agents of German propaganda succeeded in preventing this by bringing about between the Crown and the responsible Government a sudden conflict, which, according to the constitutional laws confirmed by parliamentary traditions, appeared to be out of the question. Surprised by this unforeseen crisis, the Greek people deferred manifesting their opinion until the general election of May 31, 1915, when they again expressed their confidence in the Liberal Party, which was ready, the moment Bulgarian aggression manifested itself, to lead the country in the path of honor and glory.

But the pro-German party, emboldened by their success in February and fortified by the encouragement they had received, were on the alert. In spite of the recent appeal to the country, it was able to provoke between the Crown and the responsible Government a far more serious conflict than the preceding one. Again the people were patient. If they could no longer count on their parliamentary institutions, they thought that their rulers, who were unconscious dupes of German perfidy, would be compelled sooner or later by the logic of events to recognize their mistake and to attempt to safeguard the already compromised interests of the country.

Alas! this hope was vain. For a whole year they were condemned to drink deeper and deeper of the cup of national humiliation. By means of a measure of demobilization their army was reduced to inactivity. Heroic Serbia was invaded by our hereditary enemy, Bulgaria, whose forces were stationed in a menacing way on our frontier, and soon afterwards, in spite of the promises given, they seized a portion of our territory, which the criminal policy of the Greek Government basely delivered over to them, together with some of our forts and war material and an entire army.

Meanwhile another enemy of our race, Germany, has been carrying on, by means of a swarm of official and secret agents, the work of degradation by means of which she reckoned on depriving the country of its fleet and preparing it for the loss of its political liberties and national independence. Happily, before succumbing to the repeated efforts of its enemies from without and within, the Greek people took courage and, in a supreme demonstration of the national conscience, resolved not to allow themselves to become enslaved.

Being unable to break the shackles of force and corruption, which precluded all national initiative within the limits of the established institutions, the more determined of the patriots fled and joined the populations which, far from the center, preserve more liberty of opinion and action. These patriots undertook to utilize the living forces of Hellenism in order to form an army

destined to liberate the occupied parts of the national territory and, while rehabilitating the compromised national honor, to show that Hellenism was still alive to its duties and its destinies. The civilized world has given a sympathetic welcome to this revolt of the Greek soul.

The Government established at Saloniki, recognized as a power *de facto*, set resolutely about its task, and, with the material and moral aid of the protecting powers, Greece began the realization of her military plan. At a moment when the first units of her army which have been sent to the front are about to enter into a contest with the enemies of Hellenism, the Provisional Government thinks it right to bring to the knowledge of the belligerent States, of which it has become the ally, and of the neutral States, whose sympathy it desires, the fact that from this day it considers itself in a state of war with Bulgaria for having attacked Serbia, Greece's ally, and invaded, in spite of her promises, the national territory; and with Germany for having incited and aided Bulgaria to fight against Serbia, and to act against Greece; for having violated the guarantees she gave to the Greek Government with regard to the towns of Seres, Drama, and Kavalla; for having extended to Greek maritime commerce in Greek territorial waters, without plausible reason or previous warning, the criminal attempts of submarines, and for having cynically declared that she intended to persevere in these acts of destruction of defenseless vessels, and the cowardly murder of innocent passengers; and for having, finally, undertaken to demoralize, humiliate, and divide the Greek people to the detriment of their honor and their national interests.

Not being able to send a direct notification of the present declaration of war to the Governments of the Kingdom of Bulgaria and the German Empire, the Provisional Government asks the allied Governments to be good enough to communicate it to them in its name by any means at their disposal.

*Note breaking diplomatic relations with Germany, June 30, 1917.*<sup>1</sup>

[London Times, July 3, 1917, p. 7d.]

**Greek chargé d'affaires to German foreign office.**

In consequence of the happily effected union of the two parties in Greece which had hitherto been separated, and in view of the

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<sup>1</sup> "King Alexander called upon Venezelos to assume the premiership, and on June 29 it was announced that diplomatic relations had been severed with Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey. No declaration of war was issued, but it was announced on July 2 that the Government considered that it had assumed the declarations of the provisional government of Saloniki and that therefore a state of war with Germany and Bulgaria already existed." (American Year Book, 1917, p. 63.)

fact that several Greek regiments are taking part in the hostilities on the Balkan front, the Greek Government considers that it is no longer possible to maintain official relations with the German Government. (Same *mutatis mutandi* to Austro-Hungarian Government.)

## GUATEMALA.

*Notification of breaking diplomatic relations with Germany, April 28, 1917.*<sup>1</sup>

**Foreign office to M. Mendez, Guatemalan Minister to the United States.**

The Government of Guatemala to-day broke off relations with the German Empire, handing passports to Minister Lehmann and canceling the exequaturs of the German consuls accredited to Guatemala. Advise the American Government.

Minister Mendez accompanied the dispatch from his Government by the following:

"In communicating the action of my Government to your excellency, I take pleasure in reiterating that Guatemala from the first has adhered to and supported the attitude of the United States in the defense of the rights of nations, the liberty of the seas and of international justice, and that it has always considered itself in unity with your great Nation in the lofty principles which it has so wisely proclaimed for the good of humanity.

"Therefore, Guatemala takes the greatest pleasure in offering to the United States of America her territorial waters, her ports and railways, for the use in common defense, as also all elements which may be available for the same purposes."

## HAITI.

*Neutrality regulations, October 3, 1914.*

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS.

By reason of the declaration of neutrality<sup>2</sup> published in the *Moniteur* of August 12 last, it is recalled that all those who reside in the territory of the Republic, functionaries, employees or others, are obliged to observe the greatest moderation in reference to the European war, to emit in public no opinion and to do no act in favor of or against any of the belligerent powers.

<sup>1</sup> "GUATEMALA CITY, April 22, 1918.

The National Assembly, at its session to-day, declared the Republic of Guatemala to occupy the same position toward the European belligerents as does the United States." (Associated Press dispatch.)

<sup>2</sup> International Law Topics, 1916, p. 58.