

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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consideration for the adverse opinion of the world, now the Government of the Republic, having been disappointed in this hope, in order to manifest proper respect for the law of nations and to protect the lives and property of its citizens, declares that a state of war exists with Germany and Austria-Hungary from 10 o'clock in the forenoon of the 14th instant, and that it will observe all the stipulations of the conventions signed at the International Peace Conferences at The Hague and other international agreements relating to civilized warfare.

Accept, sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

VI KYUIN WELLINGTON KOO.

## COSTA RICA.

*Note stating attitude toward war between United States and Germany April 12, 1917.*<sup>1</sup>

[Note delivered by R. Fernandez Guardia, diplomatic agent of the Tinoco Government.]

The United States having declared that a state of war exists with the Imperial Government, my Government has instructed me to reiterate to your excellency the assurances of Costa Rica's most loyal and sincere friendship for the United States.

The Costa Rican Government considers that it is the duty of all American Republics to support, at least morally, the noble attitude assumed by the United States in defense of the highest ideals of law, of right and justice, and of democracy.

The Republic of Costa Rica regrets that because of its lack of material strength it can not in this crisis tender to the United States a more substantial cooperation, but if it might be permitted to demonstrate its solidarity with the Government and the people of its great sister Republic of the North in such manner, for instance, as by permitting the use of its waters and ports for war needs by the American Navy, that cooperation would be undertaken with the greatest satisfaction.

## CUBA.

*Declaration of war against Germany, April 7, 1917.*

[Gaceta Oficial, Edicion extraordinaria, No. 20, p. 3.]

MARIO G. MENOCAI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA.

Whereas the Congress has voted and I have sanctioned the following Joint Resolution:

ARTICLE 1. *Resolved*, That from to-day a state of war is formally declared between the Republic of Cuba and the Imperial Government of Germany, and the President of the Republic is authorized and directed by this resolution to employ all the forces of the

<sup>1</sup> Costa Rica declared war upon Germany May 24, 1918, preceded by Nicaragua on May 7, 1918. (Associated Press dispatches.)

nation and the resources of our Government to make war against the Imperial German Government, with the object of maintaining our rights, guarding our territory, and providing for our security, prevent any acts which may be attempted against us, and defend the navigation of the seas, the liberty of commerce, and the rights of neutrals and international justice.

ART. 2. The President of the Republic is hereby authorized to use all the land and naval forces in the form he may deem necessary, using existing forces, reorganizing them, or creating new ones, and to dispose of the economic forces of the nation in any way he may deem necessary.

ART. 3. The President will give account to Congress of the measures adopted in fulfillment of this law, which will be in operation from the moment of its publication in the official gazette.

Therefore, I command that the present law be complied with and executed in all its parts.

Given at the palace of the President in Habana, April the seventh, nineteen hundred and seventeen.

M. G. MENOCAI.

PABLO DESVERNINE,  
*Secretary of State.*

## DENMARK.<sup>1</sup>

*Royal proclamation in reference to neutrality, August 1, 1914.*

Under the serious conditions which have arisen for our country through the fateful occurrences of the last few days, we feel constrained to make the following statement to our people:

Never has the feeling of responsibility on the part of the individual or nation been more strongly aroused.

Our country is in friendly relations with all nations. We feel assured that the strong and impartial neutrality which has always been cherished as our foreign policy, and which will now be followed undeviatingly, will be respected by all.

But though this be the common view of the Government and of all responsible and thoughtful men, we also trust that no one, through untimely utterance of opinion, through thoughtless demonstration, or in similar ways, may compromise the dignity and serenity which are so essential to create reliance in our country's attitude. We feel convinced that the seriousness of the hour will impress the acts of all Danish men and women.

God protect our fatherland!

CHRISTIAN, R.  
ZAHLE.

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<sup>1</sup> See Norway, p. 183.