provisions of paragraph 2 or article 9 of the thirteenth convention at The Hague.

I decree that: No boat of the belligerent countries which shall have violated, or may violate in the future, the rules of neutrality adopted because of the present European struggle shall be admitted in the ports of the Republic, except in the case of accident provided for in article 17 of the thirteenth convention of the Second Hague Conference.

The ship which shall infringe this provision shall be interned in conformity with article 24 of the same thirteenth convention.

Barros Luco.
Alejandre Lira.

CHINA.

Presidential mandate breaking diplomatic relations with Germany, March 14, 1917.

Our country has maintained strict neutrality since the outbreak of the war in Europe. To our surprise, a note was received from the German Government on the 2d of February of the present year, stating that beginning with that date, neutral ships would, in accordance with Germany's new blockade measures, sail in certain prohibited zones at their own risk, etc.

In view of the fact that previous to that time Chinese life and property had suffered heavy losses because of the German policy of attacking merchantmen, and that such losses would assume a far greater magnitude consequent upon the plan of unrestricted submarine warfare, we lodged a strong protest with Germany. We also declared then that if Germany should fail to change her policy, our country would be constrained to sever existing diplomatic relations.

It was our earnest hope that Germany would not insist on her policy, so that the friendly relations hitherto existing between the two countries might be preserved. Unfortunately, Germany has not yet modified her policy of submarine warfare although our note of protest has been delivered over a month, and during all that time many cases of loss of life by our people have occurred owing to the sinking of merchantmen of the various powers.

A formal note of reply was, however, received from Germany on the 11th instant. Against our expectations and wishes, the reply stated that the blockade warfare could not be cancelled. Therefore, for the purpose of upholding international law and to safeguard the lives and property of our people, it is hereby
declared that from to-day we sever our diplomatic relations with Germany.

Bearing the seal of the President, and signed by

TUAN CHI-JUI,

Prime Minister and Minister of War, Etc.

(Here follow the signatures of the other cabinet ministers.)

Note breaking diplomatic relations with Germany, noon, March 14, 1917.

Chinese Foreign Office to German Minister at Peking.

With reference to the new submarine policy of Germany, the Government of the Republic of China, actuated by the desire to further the cause of the peace of the world and to maintain the sanctity of international law, addressed a protest to Your Excellency on February 9 and declared that if, contrary to its expectations, its protest was ineffectual, the Chinese Government would be constrained to sever the diplomatic relations at present existing between the two countries. During the lapse of a month no heed has been paid to the protest of the Chinese Government in the activities of German submarines, which have caused the loss of many Chinese lives.

On March 10 a reply was received from Your Excellency. Although it states that the German Government is willing to open negotiations to arrive at a plan for the protection of Chinese life and property, yet it declares that it is difficult for Germany to cancel her blockade policy and, therefore, is not in accord with the object of the protest, and the Chinese Government, to its deep regret, considers its protest ineffectual.

Therefore, the Chinese Government is constrained to sever the diplomatic relations at present existing with the German Government. I have the honor to send herewith a passport for Your Excellency, the members of the legation staff, and their families and retinue, for their protection while leaving Chinese territory.

As regards the German consular officers, this ministry has instructed the different commissioners for foreign affairs in the treaty ports to issue them similar passports for leaving the country.

Presidential mandate declaring war on Germany and Austria-Hungary, August 14, 1917.

On the 9th day of the 2d month of this year we addressed a protest to the German Government against the policy of submarine warfare inaugurated by Germany, which was considered by this Government as contrary to international law and imperiling neutral lives and property, and declared therein, in case the protest be ineffectual, we would be constrained, much to our regret, to sever diplomatic relations with Germany.
Contrary to our expectations, however, no modification was made in her submarine policy after the lodging of our protest. On the contrary, the number of neutral vessels and belligerent merchantmen destroyed in an indiscriminate manner were daily increasing and the Chinese lives lost were numerous. Under such circumstances, although we might yet remain indifferent and endure suffering, with the meager hope of preserving a temporary peace, yet in so doing we would never be able to satisfy our people, who are attached to righteousness and sensible to disgrace, nor could we justify ourselves before our sister states which had acted without hesitation in obedience to the dictates of the sense of duty. Both here, as well as in the friendly states, the cause of indignation was the same, and among the people of this country there could be found no difference of opinion. This Government thereupon being compelled to consider the protest as being ineffectual, notified, on the 14th of the 3rd month, the German Government of the severance of diplomatic relations and at the same time the events taking place from the beginning up to that time were announced for the general information of the public.

What we have desired is peace; what we have respected is international law; what we have to protect are the lives and property of our people. As we originally had no other grave causes of enmity against Germany, if the German Government had manifested repentance for the deplorable consequences resulting from its policy of warfare, it might still be expected to modify that policy in view of the common indignation of the whole world. That was what we eagerly desired and it was the reason why we felt reluctant to treat Germany as a common enemy. Nevertheless, during the five months following the severance of the diplomatic relations the submarine attacks continued in operation as vigorously as before. It is not Germany alone, but Austria-Hungary as well, which adopted and pursued this policy without abatement. Not only has international law been thereby violated, but also our people are suffering injury and loss. The most sincere hope on our part to bring about a better state of affairs is now shattered. Therefore it is hereby declared, against Germany as well as Austro-Hungary, that a state of war exists commencing from 10 o'clock of the 14th day of the 8th month of the 6th year of the Republic of China. In consequence thereof all treaties, agreements, conventions concluded between China and Germany, and between China and Austria-Hungary, as well as such parts of the international protocols and international agreements as concern the relations between China and Germany, and between China and Austria-Hungary, are in conformity with the law of nations and international practice, abrogated. This Government, however, will respect The Hague conventions and her international agreement respecting the humane conduct of war.
The chief object of our declaration of war is to put an end to the calamities of war and to hasten the restoration of peace, which, it is hoped, our people will fully appreciate. Seeing, however, that our people have not yet at the present time recovered from sufferings on account of the recent political disturbances and the calamity again befalls us in the breaking out of the present war, I, the President of this Republic, can not help having profound sympathy for our people when I take into consideration their further suffering. I would never resort to this step of striving for the existence of our nation unless and until I, considering it no longer possible to avoid it, am finally forced to this momentous decision.

I can not bear to think that through us the dignity of international law should be impaired, or the position in the family of nations should be undermined or the restoration of the world's peace and happiness should be retarded. It is, therefore, hoped that all of our people will exert their utmost in these hours of hardship, with a view to maintaining and strengthening the existence of the Chinese Republic, so that we may establish ourselves amidst the family of nations and share with them the happiness and benefits derived therefrom. (Countersigned) Gen. Tuan Chi-Jui, Prime Minister and Minister of War, etc.

(Here follow the signatures of the other cabinet ministers.)

*Declaration of war against Germany transmitted through the Netherlands minister to Peking, 10 a. m., August 14, 1917.*
to its modification, but it now finds that its expectations are no longer realizable.

The Chinese Government, actuated by the desire to maintain international law and protect Chinese lives and property, can not remain indifferent to this state of affairs indefinitely, and therefore now declares that a state of war exists between China and Germany from 10 o'clock a.m. of the 14th day of the 8th month of the sixth year of the Republic of China. In consequence hereof the treaty of 2d September, 1861, the supplementary convention of 31st March, 1880, and all other treaties, conventions and agreements of whatever nature, at present in force between China and Germany, are abrogated, as also all such provisions of the protocol of 7th September, 1901, and other similar international agreements as only concern China and Germany. China, however, declares that she will conform to the provisions of the Hague conventions and other international agreements respecting the humane conduct of war.

Besides telegraphically requesting the Danish Government to inform the German Government, I have the honor to request Your Excellency to transmit this note to the German Government.

I avail, etc.

His Excellency,

JONKEER BEERLAERTS VAN BLOKLAND,
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister
Plenipotentiary of The Netherlands.

Declaration of war against Austria-Hungary, 10 a.m., August 14, 1917.1

PEKING, 14th August, 1917.

YOUR EXCELLENCY: On 9th February last the Chinese Government addressed a protest to the German Government against the policy of submarine warfare inaugurated by the central European powers, which was considered by the Chinese Government as con-

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1 The Austro-Hungarian minister replied as follows:

PEKING, 14th August, 1917.

YOUR EXCELLENCY: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of to-day of the following tenor:

(Here follows text of Chinese note above.)

I can not here enter into the arguments contained in the declaration of war, but feel bound to state that I must consider this declaration as unconstitutional and illegal, seeing that, according to so high an authority as the former President Li Yuan-hung, such a declaration requires the approbation of both Houses of Parliament.

His Excellency,

WANG TA-HSIIEH,
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Chinese Government returned this communication from the Austrian minister without comment. The grounds taken by Foreign Minister Wang Ta-hsieh were that no communications could be received from the Austrian representative since he had ceased to have a diplomatic status.
Notification of Declaration.

trary to the established principles of public international law and imperiling Chinese lives and property.

The Chinese Government, considering its protest to be ineffectual, later notified the German Government, on 14th March last, of the severance of diplomatic relations with Germany, which fact was duly communicated to your excellency.

As the policy inaugurated by the central European powers—a policy contrary to public international law and violating the principles of humanity—remains unmodified, the Chinese Government, actuated by the desire to maintain international law and protect Chinese lives and property, can not remain indifferent indefinitely.

Inasmuch as Austria-Hungary is acting in this matter in concert with Germany, the Chinese Government is unable to adopt a different attitude toward them, and therefore now declares that a state of war exists between China and Austria-Hungary from 10 o'clock a. m. of the 14th day of the eighth month of the sixth year of the Republic of China. In consequence thereof the treaty of 2d September, 1869, and all other treaties, conventions, and agreements of whatever nature at present in force between China and Austria-Hungary are abrogated, as also all such provisions of the protocol of 7th September, 1901, and other similar international agreements as only concern China and Austria-Hungary. China, however, declares that she will conform to the provisions of The Hague conventions and other international agreements respecting the humane conduct of war.

Besides telegraphing to the Chinese minister at Vienna to inform the Austro-Hungarian Government and to apply for his passport, I have the honor to send you herewith passports for Your Excellency, the members of the Austro-Hungarian legation, and their families and retinue for protection while leaving Chinese territory. With regard to consular officers of Austria-Hungary in China, this ministry has instructed the different commissioners of foreign affairs to issue them likewise passports for leaving the country.

I avail, etc.

His Excellency Dr. A. von Rosthorn,

Envoi Extraordinary and Minister

Plenipotentiary of Austria-Hungary.

Notification of declaration of war against Germany and Austria-Hungary, August 14, 1917.

Chinese Foreign Office to Ministers of Neutral and Allied Powers at Peking.

Peking, 14th August, 1917.

Your Excellency:

On 14th March last, the Chinese Government severed its diplomatic relations with Germany, which fact was duly communicated to Your Excellency for transmission to your Government.
As there is no hope of the Central European Powers modifying their policy of submarine warfare—a policy contrary to public international law and violating the principles of humanity—the Chinese Government has therefore declared that a state of war exists simultaneously between China and Germany as well as Austria-Hungary as from 10 o'clock a. m. of the 14th day of the 8th month of the sixth year of the Republic of China, and that all the treaties of whatever nature between China and Germany as well as Austria-Hungary are abrogated, as also all such provisions of the Protocol of 7th September, 1901, and other similar international agreements as only concern China and Germany as well as Austria-Hungary. The Chinese Government, however, declares that it will conform to the provisions of the Hague Conventions and other international agreements respecting the humane conduct of war.

I have the honor to request Your Excellency to take note of this communication and to be so good as to transmit its contents to your Government.

Iavail, etc.

Notification to the United States of declaration of war against Germany and Austria-Hungary, August 14, 1917.


The Chinese Minister to the Secretary of State.

AUGUST 14, 1917.

Sir: In pursuance of instructions from my Government, I have the honor to inform you that China having previously broken off diplomatic relations with Germany, after protesting in vain against the policy of submarine warfare adopted by the central powers of Europe, in the hope that Germany might change that policy out of
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.

[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. MENOCAL, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA.

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

ARTICLE I. 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

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