

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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of the peace of Bucharest, in humiliating us and depriving us of our fertile districts of the Dobrudsha, the nucleus of our Kingdom. Obeying my orders, our brave army fired not a single shot against the Roumanian soldier, and allowed him to gain a sorry military fame of which he has not dared to boast till now.

Bulgarians! To-day, when Bulgaria, with the assistance of the brave troops of our allies, has succeeded in repulsing Serbia's attack on our territory, in defeating Serbia and in destroying her, and in realizing the unity of the Bulgarian people; to-day, when Bulgaria is mistress of almost all the territory over which she has historical and ethnological claims; to-day, this self-same neighbor Roumania has declared war on our ally Austria-Hungary, this time also under the pretense that the European war involves important territorial changes in the Balkans which would menace her future.

Without any declaration of war from Bulgaria, Roumanian troops had already on August 28 bombarded Rustchuk and other Bulgarian Danube towns. Owing to this provocation by Roumania, I command our brave army to chase the enemy from the frontiers of my Kingdom, to destroy a perfidious neighbor, to secure the unity of the Bulgarian people, which was achieved at the cost of so many sacrifices, and to free our brothers in the Dobrudsha from slavery. We will fight hand in hand with the brave and victorious troops of our mighty allies.

I summon the Bulgarian nation to new glorious deeds of heroism to crown the present work of liberation. May the Bulgarian soldier go on from victory to victory. Forward!

FERDINAND.

Announcement of mining of Bulgarian coast, October 15, 1915.

[London Times, Oct. 16, 1915, p. 8, d.]

SOFIA, *October 15, 1915.*

It is semiofficially announced that the Bulgarian coast on the Black and Aegean seas is mined, that the lighthouse lights have been extinguished, and that the entry of vessels into the port of Dedeagatch must in the future be conducted under the guidance of Bulgarian pilots.—REUTER.

CHILE.

Decree relating to the admission of vessels which have violated neutrality, September 30, 1915.

No. 1280.

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

Santiago, September 30, 1915.

In order to assure in efficacious manner on the part of the belligerents a respect for the neutrality declared¹ by the Supreme Government in the present European conflict, and mindful of the

¹ International Law Topics, 1916, p. 15.

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