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Neutrality

Breaking of Diplomatic Relations

War

With Notes

U.S. Naval War College (Editor)

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Republic, in accordance with the request contained in his message to the National Congress, is hereby authorized to take such steps for the national defense and public safety as he shall consider adequate, to open the necessary credits and to authorize the credit operations required. All previous measures to the contrary are hereby revoked.

BULGARIA.

Neutrality declaration, July 29, 1914.

[Russian Orange Book, No. 1.]

No. 52.—The Chargé d’Affaires in Serbia to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

[Telegram.]

NISH, 16 (29th) July, 1914.

To-day the minister of Bulgaria, in the name of his Government, informed Pachitch that Bulgaria would observe neutrality.

STRANDTMAN.

Notification of hostilities with Serbia, October 12, 1915.

[London Times, Oct. 14, 1915, p. 9, f.]

SOFIA, October 12, 1915.

This evening the Ministerial *Narodni Prava* publishes the following:

Near Biogradchik yesterday (Monday, Oct. 11, 1915) morning Serbian troops, without any cause, attacked our forces.¹ In reply to this foolish provocation our troops, in order to defend themselves better, captured, after a short conflict, the heights of Kitka, in Serbian territory. The fighting lasted from 7 a. m. until 6 p. m.

Notification of existence of war with Serbia, October 14, 1915.

[London Times, Oct. 15, 1915, p. 9, d.]

ATHENS, October 14, 1915.

The Bulgarian minister announced to-day to the Greek Government that, in consequence of Serbian attacks at two points on

¹“ATHENS, October 11, 1915.

This afternoon the Bulgarians began the attack on Serbia at Kadibogas, a point in the direction of Kniashevatz.” (London Times, Oct. 13, 1915, p. 9, f.)

“The Serbian Legation in London learned yesterday (Oct. 12, 1915), from Nish, that during Monday (Oct. 11, 1915) the Bulgarians had begun to attack in the direction of the Vlasma.” (London Times, Oct. 13, 1915, p. 9, f.)

“BUCHAREST, October 12, 1915.

According to telegrams from the frontier, the Bulgarians opened hostilities against Serbia on Monday (Oct. 11, 1915) at 4 a. m. by bombarding a train carrying munitions.” (London Times, Oct. 14, 1915, p. 9, f.)

the Bulgarian frontier, Kustendil and Tren, as a result of which 70 Bulgarians were killed and 500 wounded, Bulgaria is at war with Serbia since 8 o'clock this morning.

Declaration of war against Roumanid, September 1, 1916.

[Revue Générale de Droit International Public, Documents, 23 : 199.]

M. Radoslavoff, president of the council of Bulgaria, to the Roumanian minister at Sofia.

I have had the honor to indicate during the last month to the royal legation of Roumania, either by notes verbales or by letters addressed to your excellency, or in his absence to M. Langa-Rascano, chargé d'affaires, the very numerous incidents which have constantly held on the alert the troops charged with surveillance of the Roumano-Bulgarian frontier.

These incidents, more and more frequent, always provoked from the Roumanian side, in spite of the more than correct attitude of the Bulgarian authorities and in spite of the assurances and protestations of friendship given by the Roumanian Legation, have ended by bringing to light intentions which the Bulgarian Government has hesitated to suppose of its neighbor, the recent past not having been sufficient to make them forget the sentiments of lively sympathy of the Bulgarian people toward Roumania. These sentiments date from a distant past, and in the recent past of which I speak your excellency has not forgotten the Balkan war of 1912-13, in which Roumania profited by the bloody trial which the Bulgarian people were enduring to seize from them, when they were struggling for their existence, a strip of territory, thus manifesting a tenacious ill will which nothing can justify.

The peace of Bucharest followed, which imposed on Bulgaria most heavy sacrifices. Nevertheless, she was resigned and wished to offer to her neighbor the hand of friendship. She was disappointed in her hopes. Since then evidences of animosity have continued without intermission. There was first the attitude of the Roumanian press, which overflowed with insults to Bulgaria and her sovereign; the endless difficulties over the transit of merchandise destined to Bulgaria; the refusal to deliver, in spite of regular contracts, products of prime necessity purchased in Roumania—salt, petrol, etc. There are the vexations to which the Bulgarians are exposed who live in Roumania or only cross its territory; the closure of the frontier on July 13 to merchandise and travelers from and to Bulgaria; the protests which the royal legation of Roumania at Sofia made with the greatest energy on the subject of pretended incidents provoked by the Bulgarian frontier guards, incidents which had never taken place,

such as that of Rahova, in reference to which I had the honor to write your excellency on the 15th of August, and M. Rascano on the 21st of the same month.

To the incessant frontier incidents, but of a character more or less mild, succeeded genuine battles, organized by Roumanian detachments against the Bulgarian frontier posts. Post No. 9, to the east of Kemanlar, was attacked on the night of August 25-26. Posts Nos. 10 and 13 were attacked at the same time. There were indeed veritable operations of war which the Roumanian troops carried on at the frontier; the bombardment of Kaldovo on the 28th of August, and that of Rouse the same day. The 29th of August a Roumanian detachment opened heavy fire on a Bulgarian post situated opposite them, and soon after the fire extended along the frontier line up to Bulgarian Post No. 17.

Similarly, on the shores of the Black Sea the Roumanian frontier guards vigorously attacked the Bulgarian posts and were repulsed. Finally M. Radeff has been forbidden, since August 28, to communicate with his Government. His passports were sent to him without the Bulgarian Government having been able to give him at the time instructions with reference to the circumstances which developed into a rupture of relations. On the 30th it was your excellency who demanded his passports and notified of the rupture of diplomatic relations as the natural consequence of the event which had preceded.

In the meantime, on the night of the 30th-31st, without an express declaration of war, the Roumanian Army tried to construct a bridge over the Danube before Kladovo and to cross the river in this way. Your excellency understands what is then the solution desired by the Roumanian Government, and which is compelled by the turn of events. The situation being given, as that Government has created it, Bulgaria is obliged to accept the *fait accompli*, and I have the honor, M. Minister, to bring to the knowledge of your excellency that from this morning it considers itself in a state of war with Roumania.

Accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

RADOSLAVOFF.

Proclamation of war against Roumania, September-1 (14), 1916.

[Revue Générale de Droit International Public, Doc. 23 : 200.]

Bulgarians! In 1913, after the termination of the Bulgarian war, when the Bulgarians were obliged to fight against their disloyal allies, our northern neighbor, Roumania, treacherously attacked us under pretence of a breach of the balance of power in the Balkans, and invaded the undefended portions of our fatherland without meeting resistance there. By this predatory invasion of our country she not only prevented us from harvesting the holy fruits of the war, but also succeeded, as a result

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.