

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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Government, the U.S. Department of the Navy or the Naval War College.

*Notes breaking diplomatic relations with Turkey, November 6, 1914.*

[Belgian Gray Book, No. 2.]

No. 62.—M. Davignon, Minister for Foreign Affairs, to M. van Ypersele de Strihou, Belgian Minister at Bucharest.

[Telegram.]

LE HAVRE, *November 6, 1914.*

The Turkish minister has asked for his passports. Notify the Belgian minister at Constantinople either directly or through the Roumanian Government to do the same and to leave Turkey with his staff and the consular officials.

DAVIGNON.

No. 64.—M. Davignon, Minister for Foreign Affairs, to all the Belgian Ministers in Foreign Countries.

LE HAVRE, *November 9, 1914.*

SIR: The French Government has informed the Belgian Government of the state of war existing between France and Turkey, and in these circumstances the presence at Havre of the Turkish minister with the Belgian Government became delicate. Understanding the situation in which he was placed by the course of events His Excellency Nousret Sadoullah Bey took the initiative by asking for his passports and by putting Turkish interests in Belgium under the protection of the minister of the Netherlands.

Under date November 6, I sent to his excellency the passports which he had asked for, and remarked that, according to the interpretation of the Belgian Government, the rupture of diplomatic relations in no way implied a state of war between the two countries.

The Belgian minister at Constantinople has received instructions to ask for his passports and to leave Turkey. The care of Belgian interests in Turkey has been entrusted to the ambassador of the United States of America.

DAVIGNON.

## BOLIVIA.

*Extract from the Presidential Message to the Bolivian Congress of 1915, relating to neutrality.*

Making reference to these matters, we expressed not long ago the following ideas: "Neutrals as we are in the armed conflict of the great powers of the Old World, we are met by the duty of seeing that our neutrality be not perverted, as it threatened to be through a passive acceptance of the sacrifice of our economical and commercial interests. Much could be obtained in that and other orders by the joint, and also the individual action harmoniously developed by the nations of North, Central, and South

America, if their interests could be bound together more than they are at present. The realization of such binding together must then constitute an essential topic of American policy, as, from it will rise the political conception so indispensable to the solidarity of these countries as well as necessary in abnormal times similar to the present, that the care of the economic interests of an American Nation as well as the respect of its neutrality interests all of them."

Although it may appear unnecessary, on account of dealing with the simple compliance of a duty, it may not be amiss to make it clear in this part, that Bolivia maintaining the best relations of friendship with all the belligerent countries, the attitude of the Government in relation to the strife that is being developed, has been and is of the most perfect neutrality, its acts having been conformed on this order with the principles contemplated in the International Convention of The Hague of October, 1907.

*Extract from the report of the Bolivian minister for foreign affairs, to the Ordinary Congress of 1916, relating to neutrality.*

Unfortunately the development of the national industries and the traffic of our international commerce are still struggling against the inconveniencies produced by the operations of the European war, without the efforts displayed by the States that are foreign to this conflict, to safeguard and obtain the respect due the plenitude of the rights annexed to the situation of neutrality, having reached a desirable efficacy, the result being insufficient, in most cases, to establish the effectiveness of the international principles and practices that were universally accepted as indispensable to the normal life of the nations.

Our situation as a mediterranean country protects us from differences and incidents that could depreciate or place any doubt on the absolute correctness of our proceedings, before the interests and aspirations that are struggling; but, nevertheless, the Government has not neglected to resort to the mediums within its reach to protect the rights of Bolivian commerce, in all the cases in which its intervention has become necessary; and it has also not forgotten its duty to obtain the respect due to the rights of its condition as a sovereign country and claim the international consideration which is due to it.

*Note breaking diplomatic relations with Germany, April 14, 1917.*

[Associated Press dispatch, April 14, 1917.]

LA PAZ, BOLIVIA, *April 14.*

The German minister and his staff have been handed their passports by the Bolivian Government, with a note declaring that diplomatic relations between Bolivia and Germany have been severed.

The note denounces the attacks of German submarines on neutral vessels as violations of international law and of The Hague convention. It recalls that the Bolivian minister to Berlin was on board the Holland-Lloyd liner *Tubantia* when that vessel was sunk in neutral waters a year ago. The note concludes:

Your excellency will understand that although we regret the breach of diplomatic relations between Bolivia and the German Empire, such relations have become insupportable under existing circumstances. In consequence your excellency will find herewith passports for yourself and the members of your legation.

The note declares that German subjects and property will enjoy all liberties guaranteed by law, provided that they do not commit any act of delinquency, either collectively or as individuals.

### BRAZIL.

*Order that complete neutrality be observed during the war of the German Empire against the French Republic and the Empire of Russia.*<sup>1</sup>

[Decree N. 11,038 of Aug. 4, 1914.]

The President of the Republic of the United States of Brazil:

The Federal Government having received official notification from the Government of the German Empire that it finds itself in a state of war with the French Republic and the Empire of Russia.

*Resolved*, That there be faithfully and rigorously observed and carried out by the Brazilian authorities the rules of neutrality set forth in the circular<sup>2</sup> which accompanied the decree n. 11,037, of the 4th of the current month and year, as long as the said state of war shall last.

Rio de Janeiro, August 4, 1914, 93d of the independence and 26th of the Republic.

HERMES R. DA FONSECA.

FREderico AFFONSO DE CARVALHO.

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<sup>1</sup> Similar decrees were issued as follows: No. 11,066, war between Great Britain and Germany, Aug. 12, 1914; No. 11,068, France and Austria-Hungary, Aug. 17, 1914; No. 11,069, Austria-Hungary and Russia, Aug. 17, 1914; No. 11,092, Japan and Germany, Aug. 24, 1914; No. 11,118, Austria-Hungary and Serbia, Aug. 31, 1914; No. 11,122, Austria-Hungary and Belgium, Sept. 3, 1914; No. 11,199, Great Britain and Austria-Hungary, Oct. 7, 1914; No. 11,353, Great Britain and Turkey, Nov. 11, 1914; No. 11,590, Italy and Austria-Hungary, May 24, 1915; No. 11,684, Italy and Turkey, Aug. 24, 1915; No. 11,751, Great Britain and Bulgaria, Oct. 22, 1915; No. 11,763, Italy and Bulgaria, Oct. 27, 1915; No. 11,984, Portugal and Germany, Mar. 10, 1916.

<sup>2</sup> International Law Topics, 1916, p. 10.