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GERMAN CHANCELLOR DEFENDS U-BOAT WAR

Declares in Reichstag Speech That Submarine Warfare was Undertaken in Self-Defense. Says Germany Never Desired War Against the United States.

Berlin, March 29.—Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German imperial chancellor, in a speech in the reichstag today, declared that Germany has undertaken submarine warfare for its defense, and added:

"If the American nation considers this a cause for which to declare war against the German nation, with which it has lived in peace for more than 100 years; if this action warrants an increase of bloodshed, we shall not have to bear the burden of responsibility for it."

The chancellor made important declarations concerning Germany's policy toward the United States and Russia. The chancellor, whose speech is reported by the Overseas News Agency (the German official news bureau), says further:

"Within the next few days the directors of the American nation will be convened by President Wilson for an extraordinary session of congress in order to decide the question of war or

peace between the American and German nations.

"Germany never had the slightest intention of attacking the United States of America and does not have such intention now. It never desired war against the United States of America and does not desire it today.

"How did these things develop? More than once we told the United States that we made restricted use of the submarine weapon, expecting that England could be made to observe, in her policy of blockade, the laws of humanity and international agreements. This blockade policy—this, I expressly recall, has been called 'illegal and indefinable' (the imperial chancellor here used the English words, by President Wilson and Secretary of State Lansing. Our expectations, which we maintained during eight months, have been disappointed completely; England not only did not give up her illegal and indefensible policy of blockade, but interruptedly intensified it. England, together with her allies, arrogantly rejected the peace offers made by us and our allies, and proclaimed her war aims, which aim at our annihilation and that of our allies.

"Then we took unrestricted submarine warfare into our hands; we had to, for our defense.

"If the American nation considers this a cause for which to declare war against the German nation, with which it has lived in peace for more than 100 years; if this action warrants an increase of bloodshed, we shall not have to bear the responsibility for it. The German nation which feels neither hatred nor hostility against the United States of America, shall also bear and overcome this."

Dealing with Russia, the imperial chancellor said that the Russian emperor had not listened to the German emperor's advice no longer to oppose the justified wishes of his nation for reforms.

"Had Russia's attention been concentrated on internal recognition," said the chancellor, there would have been no room for the restless policy of expansion which finally led to this war."

Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg emphatically denied that the German emperor or Germany was desirous of restoring "czardom".

The imperial chancellor also referred to Germany's attitude toward the recent events in Russia and recalled in former times the honored friendship between the two countries. Emperor Nicholas had more and more drifted into the entente's wake and into Pan-Slavic currents and had finally become a partisan of the war party, omnipotent under the Russian autocratic régime.

"Thus," said the chancellor, "in the fateful days of July, 1914, the Russian emperor declined to listen to the appeal made by the German emperor of the legendary reports disseminated with especial emphasis by our enemies in that it was the German government which assisted the autocratic reactionary policy in Russia against all movements of liberty. One year ago I declared here in the reichstag that this asseveration was directly contrary to the facts.

"When Russia, in 1905, by the Japanese war and the resulting revolution had been involved in distress, it was the German emperor who, on account of personal relations of friendship, urgently advised the Russian emperor no longer to oppose the justified wishes of his nation for reforms. Emperor Nicholas preferred other roads. In Russia, had attention been concentrated on internal recognition, there would not have been room for the restless policy of expansion which finally led to this war and which has changed the old régime so much that now it is hard even to do justice to natural, human pity for the down-fallen house of the rulers.

"Nobody can tell how things shall develop, but our attitude toward Russian events is clearly outlined. We shall follow the principle that we never meddle with the internal problems of other countries. If now is maliciously reported that Germany wants to annihilate the hardy conquered freedom of the Russian nation and that the German emperor wants to re-establish the rule of the czar over his enslaved subjects. All these are merely lies and slanders, as I have expressly stated.

"How the Russian nation wants to construct its home is only the business of the Russian nation and we shall not meddle with it. The only thing that we hope is that in Russia founda-

tions may develop that will make her the strong and firm bulwark of peace."

With reference to Chinese relations, the chancellor said:

"Our relations with China had always been of the most friendly nature and if these relations have actually been terminated by the Chinese government, I need not tell you this is not by the free resolve of the Chinese government, but that it has acted under pressure of our enemies.

"Financial difficulties which could not be mastered during the war by China also played a fair part in it. Our enemies' aim 'also is to destroy our trade in China and to appropriate without labor what has been established there during many years by German efficiency and German industry."

"The result of the war—as I confidently hope—will give us the opportunity to rebuild what has been destroyed and to rebuild it at the expense of our enemies. Then our friendly relations with China will revive, provided that China will preserve until then the necessary force of resistance against the greed and egotism of her present protectors."

work, remain for a period of two or three weeks in some German city on their way to Switzerland in order to prevent the transmission of any fresh information. This condition was accepted by the relief commission.

"It is not anticipated that the American diplomatic or consular officers will be detained during this period as written assurances have been received through the Spanish government that they will be permitted to proceed directly to Switzerland."

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AMERICANS TO BE HELD IN BELGIUM?

Report that They will not be Allowed to Leave for Three Months—American Legation is Said to be Guarded by German Police.

London, March 29.—An Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Amsterdam says:

"Frontier correspondents here from Brussels tell that the American legation is completely isolated and under a guard of German police. It is rumored that the Germans contemplate taking the minister (Brand Whitlock) and his staff to Germany.

"The Americans in Brussels have been notified that they cannot leave Belgium before three months at the earliest."

The dispatch adds that the correspondents have learned that the German authorities in Belgium have warned the relief commission that they will not allow its food barges to be further than Tournai, but that barges for Lille may travel at their own risk.

It is said the warning was given in view of the military requirements, which may compel the Germans to evacuate more of northern French territory.

Washington, March 29.—Subject of Americans of the Belgium relief commission to a "news quarantine" prior to their departure from behind the German lines was explained at the state department today as a proper course agreed upon when the relief workers were invited to remain in Belgium.

Reports that Brand Whitlock, minister to Belgium, and other diplomatic officers also would be detained were not credited, as assurances have been received to the contrary. The department issued this statement:

"There appears to be some misapprehension as to the delay in the withdrawal of Americans, members of the commission for relief in Belgium. Shortly after the break in relations with Germany negotiations were instituted with a view to providing for the continuation of the relief work. The German authorities in Belgium invited the American members to remain and gave written assurances that they might leave whenever they desired to give up the work. In view of the fact that these men are in the fighting zone, however, it was stipulated that they should, upon relinquishing their

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