

Yet Sir Edward Grey was still unwilling to let pass even the remotest chance of peace. He had heard it said that Germany might stand aside, if France and England did not enter the war and inquired of the German Ambassador as to this possibility. The Ambassador interpreted his inquiry as meaning that if Germany did not attack France, the latter might remain neutral. The German Emperor snatched at the suggestion and telegraphed that 'if France offered him neutrality which must be guaranteed by the British fleet and army, he would of course refrain from attacking France and employ his troops elsewhere.' The misunderstanding was at once corrected by Sir Edward Grey. He believed, nevertheless, 'that it might be possible to secure peace if only a little respite in time could be gained before any great power began war. The Russian Government had communicated to him the readiness of Austria to discuss with Russia and the readiness of Austria to accept a basis of mediation which is not open to the objections raised in regard to the formula which Russia originally suggested. Things ought not to be hopeless so long as Austria and Russia were ready to converse and he hoped that the German Government might be able to make use of the Russian communications in order to avoid tension.' (W.P. 131).

Germany had already taken a very different course. Her declaration of war was delivered to Russia on August 1st. In the early morning of August 2nd her troops entered Luxembourg, thereby violating its neutrality and breaking the treaty of 1867. (B.P. 18). Luxembourg had already asked