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THURSDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 1 1917—FOURTEEN PAGES

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# UNRESTRICTED SUBMARINE WARFARE BY GERMANY TO COINCIDE WITH OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION FROM GERMANY OF PLANS FOR NEW SUBMARINE WARFARE

## Official Notification Sent to Washington That 300 to 500 Submarines Are Ready for Action Which is Supercrisis of All Those That Have Stirred the United States Government in the Last Two Years--American Ships Allowed to Sail Only Twice a Week and on Routes Designated by Germany--Starvation Blockade of England Planned, the Like of Which Never Has Been Seen--United States Must Act Right Away, and Germany is Prepared for Rupture--Action is Open Confession of the Effectiveness of the British Blockade, and Enemy Hopes Wilson Will Intervene.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Germany has declared unrestricted submarine warfare. A starvation blockade of England, the like of which the world never has seen, was announced to the world today, in notes delivered to American Ambassador Gerard in Berlin, and to the state department here by Count von Bernstorff.

Thus begins the long-foreshadowed campaign of ruthlessness, conceived by Von Hindenburg, it is said here, on a magnitude never even contemplated by Von Tirpitz.

Again the United States faces severance of diplomatic relations with Germany, with all its eventual possibilities. President Wilson's repeated warnings of "a world afire," and Secretary Lansing's "verge of war" statement are being realized in the capital tonight with feelings of apprehension and misgiving.

Germany's action is the supercrisis of all these that have stirred the American Government in two and a half years of world war.

Talk of peace in Europe and means of preserving the peace of the world has gone glimmering. President Wilson, incredulous at first, when the unofficial text of Germany's warning was brought to him, at once called for the official document which had just been presented to Secretary Lansing by the German ambassador, Mr. Bernstorff, and refused to make a comment. President Wilson began at once a careful study of the document.

What will Wilson do? The president has the task of deciding what shall be the course of the United States. Three immediate steps appear among the possibilities. The United States might solemnly warn Germany against a violation of her pledges; it might be decided that the German warning is sufficient notice of an intention to disregard those pledges and a sufficient warrant for breaking off diplomatic relations; it might be decided to await the results of the blockade and determine the course of the United States as the actual operations develop.

On almost every side Germany's drastic action is interpreted as an open confession of the effectiveness of the British food blockade. It is regarded as a determination to strike in kind. German officials in the United States estimate the food supply on the British Isles will last a month.

Admittedly, the plan is to carry starvation to the doors of England with swift, staggering strokes, as a fulfillment of Germany's announced determination to use every weapon and agency at her command to end the war quickly. She counts the operations of an unnumbered number of submarines to deliver blows to bring England to her knees within sixty days. One German official here predicted today the war would be over in a month.

Conveyed to the world as her answer to the refusal of the entente allies to talk peace, Germany's latest warning says:

From Feb. 1, 1917, within barred zones around Great Britain, France, Italy and in the eastern Mediterranean... all sea traffic forthwith will be stopped.

It virtually is a renewal and extension of the celebrated submarine blockade of Feb. 18, 1915, and which became effective on Feb. 18, 1915. Under it, ships were abandoned the practice which Germany abandoned in the Sussex case, to abide by international law. The Lusitania,

## OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION FROM GERMANY OF PLANS FOR NEW SUBMARINE WARFARE

**Bernstorff to Lansing.**

Washington, D.C., Jan. 31, 1917.  
Mr. Secretary of State: Your excellency was good enough to transmit to the imperial government a copy of the message which the President of the United States of America addressed to the senate on the 22nd instant. The imperial government has given it the earnest consideration which the president's statements deserve, inasmuch as they are, by a deep sentiment of responsibility, its highly gratifying to the imperial government to ascertain that the main tendencies of this important statement correspond largely to the desires and principles professed by Germany. These principles, especially, include self-government and equality of rights for all nations.

Germany would be sincerely glad, as in recognition of this principle, countries like Ireland and India, which do not enjoy the benefits of political independence, should now obtain their freedom. The German people are anxious to see all nations which serve to force the countries into a competition for might, and to involve them in a net of selfish intrigues. On the other hand, Germany will gladly co-operate in all efforts to prevent future wars.

### Freedom of Seas.

The freedom of the seas, being a preliminary condition of the free existence of nations, and the peaceful intercourse between them, as well as the open door for the commerce of all nations, has always formed part of the leading principles of German political action. All the more, the imperial government regrets that the attitude of the enemies who are so entirely opposed to peace makes it impossible for the world at present to bring about the realization of these lofty ideals. Germany and her allies were ready to enter into a discussion of peace, and had set down as basis the guaranty of existence, honor and free development of their peoples. Their aims, as has been expressly stated in the note of Dec. 12, 1916, were not directed towards the destruction or annihilation of their enemies. Such a precautionary conviction, perfectly compatible with the rights of the other nations, as to Belgium, for which such warm and cordial sympathy is felt in the United States, the chancellor had declared only a few weeks previously that its annexation had never formed part of Germany's intentions. The peace to be signed with Belgium was to provide for such conditions in that country, with which Germany desires to maintain friendly, neighborly relations, that Belgium should not be used again by Germany's enemies for the purpose of instigating continuous hostile intrigues. Such a precautionary measure are all the more necessary, as Germany's enemies have repeatedly stated, not only in speeches delivered by their leading men, but also in the statutes of the economical conference in Paris, that it is their intention not to treat Germany as an equal, even after peace has been restored, but to continue their hostile attitude, especially to wage a systematic economic war against her.

### Lust of Conquest.

The attempt of the four allied powers to bring about peace has failed owing to the lust of conquest of their enemies, who desired to dictate the conditions of peace. Under the pretenses of following the principle of nationality our enemies have disclosed their real aims in this way, viz.: To dismember and dishonor Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria. To the wish of reconciliation they oppose the wish of destruction. They desire a fight to the bitter end.

### The Memorandum

Berlin, Jan. 31.—Following is the text of the memorandum referred to in the last sentence of the German note as given out from Washington:

From Feb. 1, 1917, within barred zones around Great Britain, France, Italy and in the eastern Mediterranean...

As outlined in the following, all sea traffic forthwith will be stopped. Such barred zones are:

"In the North Sea, the district around England and France, which is limited by a line 20 nautical miles; the district along the Dutch coast as far as the Terschelling Lightship, the degree of longitude of the Terschelling Lightship to 61 degrees north latitude. From there a line from there across the point 61 degrees north latitude, 15 degrees west; further, to 43 degrees north, 15 degrees west; then on degree latitude 43 degrees north to the point 20 nautical miles from Cape Finisterre and 20 nautical miles distance along Spanish coast as far as the French frontier.

"Concerning the south in the Mediterranean: For neutral shipping there remains open the sea district west of a line from Pointe de la Faquette to 38 degrees 20 minutes north and six degrees east, as well as north and west of 35 degrees north and 11 degrees 30 minutes east to 34 degrees north and 11 degrees 30 minutes east to 34 degrees north and 22 degrees 30 minutes east. From there it leads to a zone 20 nautical miles broad west of 22 degrees 30 minutes east longitude into Greek territorial waters.

"Neutral ships plying thru the barred zones do so at their own risk. Although precautions are being taken to spare neutral ships, which on February 1 are on the way to ports in the barred zone, during an appropriate delay, yet it is urgently to be advised that they should be warned and directed to other routes by all means available.

"Traffic of regular American passenger steamers can go on unimpeded.

"A Falmouth is taken as the port of destination, and if 'B' on the going and return journey the Scilly Islands as well as the point 50 degrees north, 20 degrees west, be steered on. Along this route no German mines will be laid.

"If steamers on this journey bear the following special signals which only they will be permitted to display in American ports:

"A coating of paint on the ship's hull three meters broad, alternating white and red; on every mast a large flag of checkered white and red; the stern the American national flag; during darkness the national flag and the coat of paint to be as easily recognizable as possible from a distance; and the ships must be completely and brightly illuminated.

"If the coasting of paint on the hull is not possible, the ships must be lit each week in each direction arriving at Falmouth on Sundays, leaving Falmouth on Wednesdays.

"If guarantees and assurances are given by the American Government that these steamers carry no contraband (according to the German list of contraband), two copies of maps on which the barred zones are outlined are added."

been supposed, removed from power because he advocated ruthless submarine warfare. The fact, according to this information, was that he was deposed because he did not effectively carry out the campaign he inaugurated.

From German quarters tonight came

the information that Germany has from 300 to 500 submarines ready for the campaign.

The German view is that the new policy will improve general prospects of an early peace. Germany is represented as still being ready to discuss peace at any time. However, it is declared that German officials, both in this country and in Berlin, feel that the declaration of changed policy should make it clear that Germany and her allies are in the war to the last drop of blood.

**No Gain by Waiting.**  
Unrestricted submarine warfare, it was declared, was determined upon as soon as the nature of the entente reply to President Wilson's note became known and before the president's address to the senate. The president's address, it was authoritatively said, came in the midst of the situation, and because of its nature it appeared for a time as if the new campaign might be postponed. However, it was explained, much preparation was necessary for the opening of such a campaign and nothing was to be gained by waiting.

It is believed here that the policy was decided upon at a recent conference at the headquarters of the German general staff, and that Field Marshal Von Hindenburg played the most important part in its formulation.

**Last Desperate Act.**  
It is expected that Austria-Hungary will take action similar to that of Germany with regard to the operations of its submarines in the Mediterranean. Every intimation from Germany in the last few months has been that an unrestricted submarine warfare, almost certain to bring in the United States, would be adopted only as a last act of desperation. German papers have said that the president could oppose neutral opinion unless she were willing to have the rest of the neutral world added to her enemies.

Two opposing views of American hostility have been allowed to pass the German censor. The first was that the harm the United States could do Germany as an active enemy was no greater than as a neutral supplying munitions and loans to the allies and that the crippling of allied shipping would be the turning

## U.S. Newspaper Comment

New York, Jan. 31.—Despatches from every part of the United States to the Associated Press reveal a remarkable unanimity of editorial opinion that the country is on the verge of war with Germany. Epitomizing the attitude of the press of the country toward the latest German note, The New York World, a strong supporter of the Wilson administration, says:

"There can be only one answer on the part of the United States to the new German submarine proclamation, and that answer should be made today. The German ambassador must receive his passports forthwith and diplomatic relations must cease at once. There should be no procrastination until the hand of the United States Government is forced by premeditated murder and assassination. We have made every concession."

### SURPRISING FUR REDUCTIONS.

The Dineen annual stock-taking sale provides many striking bargains for those who know values in furs. While the reactions of the general public there is a special emphasis on Hudson Seal Coats and sets in wolf and fox varieties. The pieces featured are in some instances below the present market value of the raw skins.

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point of the war. This apparently is the view now adopted. The other view, known to have been held by some high officials here, was that Germany might in desperation seek to involve the United States as an actual enemy on the ground that her influence at the peace conference would be a generous one.

Officials here, stunned at the suddenness of the German action, hesitate to conceal their disquietude over the mental unpreparedness of the American people for what may be coming. The recent flood of peace discussion started by the German offer, increased by the president's note and again by the entente reply, are thought to have turned public opinion in this country, either by way from the possibility of war and to have focused attention on the terms of a near peace.

**Unimagined Frightfulness.**  
A revolution is expected to take place in the entente countries, with the result that the world war will enter a period of frightfulness unimagined heretofore. With the menacing of huge offensives by land, announcement of ruthlessness by sea, officials look forward to at least a spring and summer of unprecedented slaughter.

The German note sweeps away all the issues that have previously loomed so large, such as what armaments a merchant ship can carry, where it must be located, how it may be used, whether the ship is chartered, rechartered or will private, and rechartered, and what diplomatic relations which cannot be brooked or ignored, when the Associated Press described the German note as a "revolutionary" step. Secretary Tamm hurried to him with the news.

The president could believe it contained in a formal note already before the state department.

Cabinet members likewise received the news with expressions of amazement.

On every hand in official circles the first opinion formed with detailed consideration was that diplomatic relations with Germany would be broken if the terms of the decree were carried out.

to Germany that self-respect will permit, and all these concessions proved to be in vain. To acquiesce in a resumption of ruthless submarine operations is to subject ourselves to the losses of war while depriving ourselves of the means of self-defence. That is intolerable. No peace is worth the price of subject national humiliation and degradation. No peace is worth the surrender of a nation's sovereign rights.

"If Germany wants war with the United States, let Germany have war with the United States. Our hands are clean."

Excerpts from other leading papers follow:

**New York Herald:**  
"The major portion of the note published today is for consumption by the German peoples. The American people are interested only in its open flouting of their government. In the truculent assumption of Prussianism that it can deprive the United States of all those rights which have been maintained so stoutly—in none."

"Doubtless the idea of the Berlin Government is that it can bluff an American president into a disgraceful surrender."

"The Berlin Government may be mistaken."

**New York Tribune:**  
"We have submitted to outrage long enough. Peace with Germany would be purchased at too dear a price if it is to be purchased by compliance with the Kaiser's latest insulting instructions to us as to how we shall conduct our commerce with the entente nations."

"This western European blockade is