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TELEGRAM

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From THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS
To THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANADA

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LONDON,

Prime Minister has told us, to prefer neutral shipping or humble fishing boats to our regular merchant ships. Finnish, Dutch, Swedish, Greek, Norwegian and Belgian ships have been sunk on the high seas in an indiscriminate manner and with loss of life. In all the far-reaching control becoming increasingly more effective which we ourselves are exercising upon the movements of contraband, no neutral ship has ever been put in danger and no law recognized among civilized nations has been contravened. Even when German ships have deliberately sunk themselves to avoid the formalities of the Prize Court we have so far succeeded in rescuing their crews. Such is the U-Boat war hard, widespread and bitter, a war of groping and drowning, a war of ambush and strategy, a war of science and seamanship. All the more must we all respect the resolute spirit of the officers and men of the Mercantile Marine who put to sea with alacrity sure that they are discharging a duty indispensable to the life of their island home.

What of the future? In the last war the first U-Boat attack in the winter of 1914 was beaten off by such primitive measures as we could devise and thereafter there was a long pause. Then came a terrible change. A much larger number of U-Boats were built and launched upon the seas in the Summer and Autumn of 1917 but by that time we also had great counter preparations ready. ~~We have made great progress in these counter preparations~~