

[ENCLOSURE]

Ambassador in United States to Foreign Secretary

DESPATCH 341

Washington, October 27, 1914

Sir,

Dr. Dernburg, late Colonial Secretary in the German Government, who is now in this country on a mission from his Government similar to that which he performed with such signal success in England some years ago, in the course of a lecturing tour stated on the 22nd at Newark that the German Ambassador had stated to the United States State Department that no matter what happened in the course of the war she would respect the views held by the United States regarding the Monroe Doctrine. This declaration was made in the first three weeks in August. Dr. Dernburg proceeded to contrast this attitude on the part of Germany with the violation of the spirit of the Monroe Doctrine which was implied in the action recently taken by Canada in giving her help to England. This statement was referred to Count Bernstorff, the German Ambassador here, who said that early in September he had communicated to the State Department the intention of the German Government in regard to the Monroe Doctrine. He said the statement had been made in writing.

The State Department officials appeared to be at first entirely unaware that the German Government had made any such notification but a search of the files revealed a note delivered on September 3rd. The Department made public the contents of the note in the following statement:

The German Ambassador on September 3rd last in a note to the Department of State, stated that he was instructed by his Government to deny most emphatically the rumours to the effect that Germany intends, in case she comes out victorious in the present war, to seek expansion in South America.

The State Department said that this denial by the German Government was entirely voluntary and not in response to any enquiries from the State Department.

In a subsequent statement Count Bernstorff said that the note was sent by the German Government because of the fact that the British Government had brought to the attention of the State Department the charge that Germany intended if victorious to seek expansion in South America. This particular charge, as I need not say, is absolutely untrue and was immediately denied at the State Department. In another explanation the German Embassy made the following statement: "the note was written at that time because Winston Churchill had said in his message to the American people that if Germany was victorious in the present war she would attack the Monroe Doctrine." Count Bernstorff also made the declaration that "a German invasion of Canada for a temporary foothold on the American Continent would not be a violation of the Monroe Doctrine and therefore Germany could take this step if necessary, without running counter to American principle." In the opinion of Count Bernstorff Canada, in sending troops