

TELEGRAM

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

LONDON,

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from Narvik. By so doing, it seems to us that Germany is piling up a fresh case against herself which is quite distinct from the case we had previously made out to show that she violated Norwegian territorial waters.

These violations by Germany of International Law on the High Seas might well be held to justify us in maintaining that we too should be liberated from the strict position of law in those cases where our vital interests are concerned, so long as our action does not endanger the interests of any neutral State or its citizens.

The attitude of the smaller neutrals is, we know, to hold us to the strict application of International Law as regards neutral rights, while they themselves perforce acquiesce in Germany's illegalities as practised against themselves. This may be intelligible, in view of the terror which Germany's threats inspire in most of them. But the smaller neutral States themselves should realize, as indeed they probably do though fear prevents them from acting upon it, that their security depends upon our victory, and that, should we go under, Germany will show no respect for the property or rights of weak neutrals.

We have never contemplated taking any action in Norwegian waters which would cost a single Norwegian life. At the same time many Scandinavian sailors have been killed by German action in flagrant violation of International Law. Yet we are prohibited from even a technical infringement of that Law and thus compelled to allow quantities of iron ore to reach Germany which provides her with the raw material necessary to create more armaments to be used against ourselves and neutrals alike.