

TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THEIR CHIVALRY

Huns Depended on U. S. Navy To Save Lives

Lord Beresford's Position

A Criticising the Americans in Submarine Controversy; Nothing Should Injure Friendly Relations

London, Nov. 3.—Lord Beresford, in interview today, replied to the criticism in American newspapers upon his comments on the U-53 incident. The Admiral wanted it made clear that he was not disposed to criticize the American government or suggest anything it might do in the situation, that is one essentially for Washington to handle in its own way.

"In what I have said about the U-53 incident," he said, "I made no criticism of the American navy, whose chivalry and courage are known to the world over. Nor have I intended to criticize the government at Washington. I have alluded to recent behavior of German submarines in American seas in the hope that some negotiations might be taken up between the American and British governments to avoid a repetition of the incident that might cause a misunderstanding between the two great English-speaking nations. Such a misunderstanding would be lamentable. It would be a curious situation if German submarines were to be allowed to sink ships in American seas while counting upon the American navy to pick up the survivors. There is danger ahead in such policy of the Germans and it is to avoid that danger that I have spoken."

Should Not Disagree

"Great Britain and America, in my opinion, should do nothing that might interfere with the good relations existing between them. What I wanted was to remove the slightest chance for a serious disagreement between the two countries on any point arising from German submarine methods. To that purpose I urge consideration by the two governments of the whole situation. That would enable them to come to a definite understanding on any point that may be in controversy."

"Although it may be held that from the standpoint of international law there may have been nothing illegal in the German attacks in American seas, still the Germans have brought about a situation that has caused us in England to believe that some changes must be made in German methods, some changes by which they in their submarine piracy will not be allowed to take advantage of the chivalry of the American navy. Whether the American navy did or did not hear in advance that an attack was to be made by German submarine does not need to be considered. The point is, the Germans gave the appearance of utilizing the American navy in saving the passengers and crews of torpedoed vessels, the American government having stipulated that no ships should be torpedoed unless passengers and crews were assured an opportunity for safe escape. Escape in this incident was impossible, except for the chivalrous action and good seamanship of the American men-of-war. "Here in England we have always remembered with pride the fact that when a superior German squadron was thought to be about to attack an inferior American squadron at Manila, the British captain, Chichester, said nothing, but he got his ship under way and anchored



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her in such a position that the German squadron would have had to fire through the British ships to hit the American vessels. No action in history has ever occurred more likely to promote the friendly feeling of two nations than that of Captain Chichester. It was spontaneous on his part and appreciated by the British nation thoroughly, as by the Americans.

A Debt to America

"We owe to the gallantry and innate good feeling of the officers and men of the American navy that the lives of the passengers were saved after the British ships had been torpedoed by the U-53. The German submarine relied on it. While the incident will require very delicate handling, with the good feeling existing between the British and American governments, I am confident a way will be found to solve the difficulty. It would be deplorable if anything should occur to cause misunderstanding or irritation between the two countries."

Lord Beresford, in conclusion, roundly described international law, in so far as it goes at present with regard to submarines, as a "farce."

"The enemy, under international law, is to be understood before the submarine was invented," he said, "had a perfect right to enter a neutral port for twenty-four hours, to receive supplies, and possibly get information, but that referred only to above-water ships, which stood a chance of being met by the enemy outside of territorial waters and destroyed or captured. It is different with the submarine, which can go into a neutral port, derive all the advantages, get information and then submerge in territorial waters."

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