



# U. S. SEVERES RELATIONS WITH GERMANY

## PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES SEVERANCE

To Joint Session of Congress President Speaks Words That May Carry Country Into World Conflict, Not for Aggression, Not for Power, Only for Law and Humanity—Overt Acts Means Declaration of War Against Germany.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Severance of diplomatic relations with Germany was formally announced to the country and the world by President Wilson at a joint session of congress today at 2 o'clock.

The United States stands on the verge of war, with all the historic precedent of centuries pressing it forward. Fervently invoking the guidance of Almighty God in the step he had taken, President Wilson detailed to congress why the United States could not continue relations with a warring power which repeatedly invades its sacred rights and takes the lives of its citizens.

**President is Calm.**  
Calm, with a sense of responsibility in what may prove the most somber moment of American history, the president stood in the historic hall of the house of representatives, and with senators and representatives before him spoke the words which may carry the country into the world conflict, not for aggression and not for power; only for law and humanity.

Silent and attentive, the grim company of the nation's lawmakers listened with rapt attention while President Wilson told of America's diplomatic struggle to dissuade Germany from her campaign of ruthlessness.

In concluding his address the president declared that he could not even now believe that Germany intends any overt acts against American citizens, but that if overt acts are forthcoming he will again come before congress to ask authority "to use any means that may be necessary for the protection of our seamen and our people." All neutral governments, he believes, will take the same course.

**War Threatened.**  
"We wish to serve no selfish ends," the president stated. "We seek merely to stand true alike in thought and in action to the immemorial principles"

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## WARSHIPS GUARD INTERNED STEAMERS

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Feb. 3.—The coast guard cutter Yamacraw has gone alongside the German prize ship Appam and it is thought the German prize crew will be taken off immediately.

Two torpedo boat destroyers joined the super-dreadnaught Arkansas off the Virginia capes in emergency duty.

## SACRIFICE OF AMERICAN SHIPS OR LIVES MEANS WAR WITH GERMANY SAYS WILSON

President's Address to Congress Reviews History of Submarine Warfare Negotiations, Promises by Germany and Notice of Resumption—If Overt Acts Follow, President Will Come Again Before Congress to Ask That Authority Be Given Him to Use Any Means Necessary for the Protection of Our Seamen and People in Prosecution of Their Peaceful and Legitimate Errands on the High Seas.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—The president spoke as follows:  
"Gentlemen of the Congress:  
"The imperial German government on the thirty-first of January announced to this government and to the governments of the other neutral nations that on and after the first of February, the present month, it would adopt a policy with regard to the use of submarines against all shipping seeking to pass thru certain designated areas of the high seas, to which it is clearly my duty to call your attention.

**Reviews Situation.**  
"Let me remind the congress, on the eighth of April last, in view of the sinking on the 24th of March of the cross-channel passenger steamer Sussex by a German submarine, without summons or warning and the consequent loss of the lives of several citizens of the United States who were passengers aboard her, this government addressed a note to the imperial German government, in which it made the following declaration:

"If it is still the purpose of the imperial government to prosecute the relentless and indiscriminate warfare against vessels of commerce by the use of submarines without regard to what the government of the United States must consider the sacred and indisputable rules of international law and the universally recognized dictates of humanity the government of the United States is at last forced to the conclusion that there is but one course it can pursue. Unless the imperial government should now immediately declare and effect an abandonment of its present methods of submarine warfare against passenger and freight carrying vessels, the government of the United States can have no choice but to sever diplomatic relations with the German empire altogether."

**Germany's Promises.**  
"In reply to the declaration the German government gave this government the following assurances:  
"The German government is prepared to do its utmost to confine the operations of war for the rest of its duration to the fighting forces of the belligerents, thereby also insuring the freedom of the seas, a principle upon which the German government believes now as before, to be in agreement with the government of the United States.

"The German government, guided by this idea, notifies the government of the United States that the German naval forces have received the following orders: In accordance with the general principles of visit and search and destruction of merchant vessels recognized by international law, such vessels, both within and without the area declared a naval war zone, shall not be sunk without warning and without saving human lives unless these ships at-

tempt to escape or offer resistance.

"But," it added, "neutrals cannot expect that Germany, forced to fight for her existence, shall, for the sake of neutral interests, restrict the use of an effective weapon if her enemy is permitted to continue to apply at will methods of warfare violating the rules of international law. Such a demand would be incompatible with the character of neutrality and the German government is convinced that the government of the United States does not think of making such a demand, knowing that the government of the United States has repeatedly declared that it is determined to restore the principle of the freedom of the seas, from whatever quarter it has been violated."

"To this the government of the United States replied on the eighth of May accepting of course the assurances given, but adding:  
"The government of the United States feels it necessary to state that it takes it for granted that the imperial German government does not intend to imply that the maintenance of its newly announced policy is in any way contingent upon the course or result of diplomatic negotiations between the government of the United States and any other belligerent government, notwithstanding the fact that certain passages in the imperial government's note of the fourth instant might appear to be susceptible of that construction. In order, however, to avoid any misunderstanding, the government of the United States notifies the imperial government that it cannot for a moment entertain, much less discuss a suggestion that respect for German naval authorities for the rights of citizens of the United States upon the high seas should in any way or in the slightest degree be made contingent upon the conduct of any other government, affecting the rights of

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## AMERICAN AMBASSADOR RECALLED FROM BERLIN



JAMES W. GERARD

## BERNSTORFF NOT AT ALL SURPRISED BY DISMISSAL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Count Von Bernstorff's eyes moistened when he received the information of his dismissal, and he said to a correspondent of the Associated Press:

"I'm so sorry. However, I expected it. There was nothing else left for the United States to do. I wonder how I am to get home?"

Count Von Bernstorff's earlier in the day had said he believed that even if a break should come President Wilson would continue his efforts to restore peace to the world, possibly through the Swiss government. It was during this discussion that his private telephone rang.

"You say relations have been broken off and that the president is going to congress at 2 o'clock?" he said in response to what was told him over the wire. "Are you sure? Well, maybe that is right. No, I have no comment to make and nothing to say."

Later he explained how sorry he was that the break had to come, and added:  
"I am not surprised. My government will not be surprised, either. The people in Berlin know what was bound to happen if they took the action they have taken. However, I have simply been here to carry out the orders of my government. I have had no official information either from my government or from the United States, since I presented the note which brought this about."

Many attaches of the embassy immediately began preparing to remove their personal effects. The clicking of typewriters ceased and clerks stopped working to talk of possibilities of war and how they were going to get back to Germany.

E. P. Carpenter of Fresno, Cal., is a Medford visitor for a few days.

## INTERNED SHIPS PROTECTED UNTIL WAR DECLARED

German Vessels in American Ports Cannot Be Confiscated Until Hostilities Begin—As Far as Individuals Are Concerned, There is No Charge—Relief Work Stops.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany does not mean war but easily may lead to war. It is an act of protest characterized in the usage of nations as a "measure short of war."

The danger that war may follow is accentuated by the diplomatic history of the world. Modern times show no instance of a diplomatic break between two first class powers that has not been followed by hostilities.

The rights of Germans in the United States and of Americans in Germany are practically unaffected by the severance of diplomatic relations. No treaties are terminated or suspended but remain in full force and effect unless either government shall decide to renounce them, which under international practice generally calls for a notice of one year.

**Not Under Supervision.**  
German and American consuls in the United States and American consuls in Germany holding their places by virtue of treaties continue to perform their usual functions but they no longer work under supervision of diplomatic officers.

There is change in commercial relations, already badly crippled by the war. Individuals and corporations may continue their usual affairs provided they do not deal in contraband and their obligations are as binding as ever. The courts still remain open to them for redress but they have no facility for direct intervention of their diplomatic officials. They may, however, be represented by the diplomats of the friendly powers to care for the interests of the respective governments.

There should be no sequestration or confiscation of private property either in the United States or Germany although it may be taken for (Continued on Page Five.)

## SPAIN PROTESTS SUBMARINE WAR

LONDON, Feb. 3.—A Madrid dispatch to Reuters says that the Spanish government has telegraphed the central powers asking that the time allowed Spanish ships to return to port be extended.

Many towns are protesting against the note of the central powers and have sent appeals to the government to support with dignity the interests of the nation. The administration has prohibited an anti-German meeting which was called at Santander. The consulates of the central powers at Barcelona and the camp of interned Germans near that city are being guarded by the police.

## AMERICAN LINER SUNK BY U-BOAT

Steamer Housatonic Sunk by German Submarine Near the Scilly Islands—Was Former Hamburg-American Line Steamer Georgia and American Registry Granted to Her in April, 1915—Prior to That Time Laid Up at New Orleans.

LONDON, Feb. 3.—The rumor is current that the Housatonic was sunk without warning.

LONDON, Feb. 3.—Later information confirms the report that the Housatonic was sunk near Scilly islands, off Lands End, the southwestern corner of England.

**Former Hamburg Liner.**  
The Housatonic sailed from Galveston January 6 and from Newport News January 16 for London.

The Housatonic was formerly the Hamburg-American line steamer Georgia and American registry was granted to her in April, 1915. Prior to that time she had been laid up at New Orleans since the beginning of the war.

It was then announced that the vessel had been bought on March 29 for \$850,000 by the Housatonic Steamship company of which Edward E. Geer of New York was president.

The Housatonic was 3113 tons gross and was built in Glasgow in 1890. She was 235 feet long, 40 feet wide and twenty feet deep.

**Carried Contraband.**  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—News of the sinking of the Housatonic created a sensation here, but state department officials said it would depend entirely upon the circumstances whether the incident would affect the present situation.

The ship was carrying contraband, and it was destroyed with proper warning and provision for the safety of the crew or in an attempt to escape, the United States merely would have a claim for damages as in the Frye case.

The first effect of the incident in official circles was to direct attention anew to the president's declaration in his address to congress today that if American ships and lives were sacrificed "in heedless contravention of the just and reasonable understandings of international law," he would again go before congress for authority to "use any means that may be necessary for the protection of our seamen and our people."

**WAR BULLETINS AT MAIL TRIBUNE SUNDAY**  
For the convenience and information of the public, the Mail Tribune, at great expense, will receive a special war news service arranged for the Associated Press over its leased wire Sunday.