

Washington Post, 31 mars 1917

LES ETATS-UNIS COMMENCENT LA GUERRE

Elle est pratiquement déclarée contre l'Allemagne, pense Zimmerman.

[...]

Londres, le 30 mars. Le correspondant de Reuters à Amsterdam envoie ce qui suit concernant le discours du Dr Alfred Zimmerman, ministre des Affaires étrangères, à propos de la tentative allemande d'impliquer le Mexique et le Japon contre les Etats-Unis. Hugo Haase, chef de la minorité socialiste au Parlement [*Reichstag*], a remarqué que l'offre allemande d'une alliance avec le Mexique a aggravé la situation avec les Etats-Unis, et M. Zimmerman lui répondant, dit :

« Je n'ai pas écrit au Général Carranza, je n'étais pas si naïf. J'ai juste adressé, par une route qui m'apparaissait sûre, des instructions à notre représentant à Mexico. Une enquête est en cours pour déterminer comment ces instructions sont tombées aux mains des autorités américaines.

Loyal envers les Etats-Unis

« J'ai informé le ministre de Mexico, dans le cas d'une guerre avec les Etats-Unis, de la proposition d'une alliance allemande au Mexique, et suggéré, simultanément, que le Japon rejoigne cette alliance. J'ai déclaré expressément qu'en dépit de la guerre sous-marine, nous espérons que les Etats-Unis resteraient neutres. Mes instructions ne devaient être connues qu'après que les Etats-Unis aient déclaré la guerre... »

*Memorandum avec le Mexique et le Japon
about un acte de guerre*

SAYS U. S. BEGAN WAR

W.P. Zimmerman
Practically Declared It Against
Germany, Zimmermann Holds.

JAPAN FOE OF AMERICA

More Antagonistic to Washington
Than to Berlin, He Says.

German Behavior, Foreign Minister
Adds. "Contrasts With That of
United States"—President Accused
of Inciting Neutrals Against Teu-
lons—Japanese and Mexicans Al-
lies Because "of a Like Race."

London, March 30.—Reuter's Amster-
dam correspondent sends the following
concerning the address of Dr. Alfred
Zimmermann, minister of foreign affairs,
with regard to Germany's attempt
to embroil Mexico and Japan with the
United States:

Hugo Haase, leader of the socialist
minority in the reichstag, remarked that
the German offer of an alliance with
Mexico had aggravated the situation
with the United States, and Dr. Zim-
mermann replying, said:

"I wrote no letter to Gen. Carranza. I
was not so naive. I merely addressed,
by a route that appeared to me to be a
rational instructions to our representa-
tive in Mexico. It is being investigated
how these instructions fell into the
hands of the American authorities.

Loyal as Regards U. S.

"I instructed the Minister to Mexico,
in the event of war with the United
States, to propose a German alliance to
Mexico, and simultaneously to suggest
that Japan join the alliance. I declared
expressly that, despite the submarine
war, we hoped America would maintain
neutrality.

"My instructions were to be carried
out only after the United States declared
war and a state of war intervened. I
believe the instructions were absolutely
legal as regards the United States. Gen.
Carranza would, up to the present, have
heard nothing of it if the United States
had not published the instructions,
which came into its hands in a way
which was not unobjectionable. Our be-
havior contrasts considerably with the
behavior of the Washington govern-
ment.

"War Practically Declared."

"President Wilson. After our note of
January 21, 1917, which decided all ap-
proachments in favor, declared it proper
immediately to break off relations with
extraordinary roughness. Our Ambassa-
dor no longer had the opportunity to
explain or elucidate our attitude.
The United States government thus de-
clared to negotiate with us. On the
other hand, it addressed itself immedi-
ately to all neutral powers to induce
them to join the United States and break
with us.

in this the hostile attitude of the Amer-
ican government, which seemed to con-
sider it right before being at war with
us, to set the entire world against us.
It cannot deny us the right to seek allies
when it has itself practically declared
war on us.

Often Senator Underwood.

"Herr Haase says it caused great in-
significance in America. Of course, in the
first instance, the affair was employed
as an incitement against us. But
meanwhile the storm abated slowly, and
the calm and sensible politicians and
also the great mass of the American
people saw there was nothing to ob-
ject to in these instructions in them-
selves. I refer especially to the state-
ments of Senator Underwood. Even
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mit regretfully that not so much
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had been made of this affair.

"I was reproached for thinking just
of Mexico and Japan. First of all, Mex-
ico was a neighboring state to America.
If we wanted allies against America,
Mexico would be the first to come into
consideration. The relations between
Mexico and ourselves since the time of
Porfirio Diaz have been extremely
friendly and trustful. The Mexicans,
moreover, are known as good and ef-
ficient soldiers.

U. S. and Japan Unfriendly.

"It can hardly be said that the re-
lationship between the United States and
Mexico have been friendly and trust-
ful, but the world knows that intelli-
gence exists between America and
Japan. I maintain that these intelli-
gences are stronger than those which,
despite the war, exist between Germany
and Japan.

"Then I also wished to persuade Car-
ranza that Japan should join the al-
liance, there was nothing extraordi-
nary in this. The relations between
Japan and Mexico are long and silent.
The Mexicans and Japanese are of a
like race and good relations exist be-
tween both countries.

"When further the entente press ad-
verts that it is shameful to take any
allies, such reproach must have a par-
ticular effect coming from powers who,
like our enemies, made no scruple in
taking away from us two powers and
peoples with whom we were bound by
treaties of more than 20 years. The
powers, who desire to make plant an
old European country of culture the
treason by unparalleled and violent
means, cannot raise such a reproach
against us.

Mexico "Suited Our Purpose."

"When I thought of this alliance
with Mexico and Japan I allowed my-
self to be guided by the consideration
that our lease troops already have to

fight, and my duty is, as far as pos-
sible, to keep further enemies away
from them. That Mexico and Japan
suited that purpose even Herr Haase
will not deny.

"Thus I considered it a patriotic duty
to release those instructions, and I hold
to the standpoint that I acted rightly."

The emergency budget voted yester-
day, the dispatch adds, authorized the
imperial chancellor to meet the current
expenditures of the empire for the
months of April, May and June. The
reichstag continued the debate on the
foreign office budget today.

W.P. 36 March 17