

30-IVe II
13-5-916

Lisbon, May 11, 1916.

Excellency:

I have the honor, in accordance with telegraphic instructions from my Government, to inform Your Excellency that the note of the Imperial German Government, under date of May 4, 1916, has received careful consideration by the Government of the United States it is especially noted as indicating the purpose of the Imperial Government as to the future, that it is prepared to do its utmost to confine the operations of the war for the rest of its duration to the fighting forces of the belligerents and that it is determined to impose upon all its commanders at sea the limitations of the recognized rules of international law upon which the Government of the United States has insisted throughout the months which have elapsed since the Imperial Government announced on February 4, 1915, its submarine policy now happily abandoned. The Government of the United States has been constantly guided and restrained by motives of friendship in its patient efforts to

His Excellency

Snr. Dr. Augusto Soares,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
etc., etc., etc.,

Lisbon

bring to an amicable settlement the critical questions arising from that policy, accepting the Imperial Government's declaration of its abandonment of the policy which has so seriously menaced the good relations between the two countries, the Government of the United States will rely upon a scrupulous execution henceforth of the now altered policy of the Imperial Government such as will remove the principal danger to an interruption of the good relations existing between the United States and Germany, 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 possible misunderstanding, the Government of the United States notifies the Imperial Government that it cannot for a moment entertain, much less discuss a suggestion (in) that respect by 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 neutrals and non-combatants

responsability in such matters is single, not joint,
absolute, not relative.

I embrace this opportunity to renew to Your
Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.


American Minister.