

**DECLARATION OF  
INTERNATIONAL NAVAL  
CONFERENCE; 63D CONGRESS,  
2D SESSION, DOCUMENT NO.  
563**

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**VARIOUS**

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63d Congress }  
2d Session }

SENATE

{ DOCUMENT  
No. 563 }

# DECLARATION OF INTERNATIONAL NAVAL CONFERENCE

SIGNED BY THE DELEGATES OF THE UNITED  
STATES TO THE INTERNATIONAL NAVAL CON-  
FERENCE HELD AT LONDON, ENGLAND, FROM  
DECEMBER 4, 1908, TO FEBRUARY 26, 1909

TOGETHER WITH AN

OPINION OF HON. CONE JOHNSON, SOLICITOR  
FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT, RELATIVE  
TO THE TRANSFER OF MERCHANT  
SHIPS DURING WAR



PRESENTED BY MR. O'GORMAN AND MR. SIMMONS

AUGUST 11, 1914.—Ordered to be printed

WASHINGTON  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

1914

Executive A. Sixty-first Congress, first session.

## MESSAGE

FROM THE

# PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

THE DECLARATION SIGNED BY THE DELEGATES OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE INTERNATIONAL NAVAL CONFERENCE, HELD AT LONDON, ENGLAND, FROM DECEMBER 4, 1908, TO FEBRUARY 26, 1909.

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APRIL 21, 1909.—Read; convention read the first time and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations and, together with the message and accompanying papers, ordered to be printed in confidence for the use of the Senate.

DECEMBER 13, 1909.—Injunction of secrecy removed.

APRIL 23, 1911.—Recommitted.

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*To the Senate:*

I transmit, with a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, the declaration signed by the delegates of the United States to the International Naval Conference, held at London, England, from December 4, 1908, to February 26, 1909, together with a report by the Secretary of State and other accompanying papers.

WM. H. TAFT.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *April 21, 1909.*

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**The PRESIDENT:**

I have the honor to submit for your consideration and for transmission to the Senate, should you deem it proper, with a view to obtaining the advice and consent of that body to ratification, an authenticated copy of the declaration concerning laws of naval warfare, signed on February 26, 1909, by the delegates of the United States and other powers to the International Naval Conference, held at London, England, from December 4, 1908, to February 26, 1909, together with an official interpretation of such declaration by the committee which drafted it.



- 1 Hoping that a work so important to the common welfare will  
2 meet with general approval;
- 3 Have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:
- 4 His Majesty the German Emperor, King of Prussia:
- 5 M. Kriege, Privy Councillor of Legation and Legal Adviser to  
6 the Department for Foreign Affairs, Member of the Permanent  
7 Court of Arbitration.
- 8 The President of the United States of America:
- 9 Rear-Admiral Charles H. Stockton, retired;
- 10 Mr. George Grafton Wilson, Professor at Brown University  
11 and Lecturer on International Law at the Naval War College  
12 and at Harvard University.
- 13 His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia, &c.,  
14 and Apostolic King of Hungary:
- 15 His Excellency M. Constantin Thoédore Dumba, Privy Coun-  
16 cillor of His Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty, Envoy  
17 Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.
- 18 His Majesty the King of Spain:
- 19 M. Gabriel Maura y Gamazo, Count de la Mortera, Member of  
20 Parliament.
- 21 The President of the French Republic:
- 22 M. Louis Renault, Professor of the Faculty of Law at Paris,  
23 Honorary Minister Plenipotentiary, Legal Adviser to the Min-  
24 istry of Foreign Affairs, Member of the Institute of France,  
25 Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.
- 26 His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain  
27 and Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas,  
28 Emperor of India:
- 29 The Earl of Desart, K. C. B., King's Proctor.
- 30 His Majesty the King of Italy:
- 31 M. Guido Fusinato, Councillor of State, Member of Parliament,  
32 ex-Minister of Public Instruction, Member of the Permanent  
33 Court of Arbitration.
- 34 His Majesty the Emperor of Japan:
- 35 Baron Toshiatsu Sakamoto, Vice-Admiral, Head of the Depart-  
36 ment of Naval Instruction.
- 37 M. Enjiro Yamaza, Councillor of the Imperial Embassy at  
38 London.



1      Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands:

2      His Excellency Jonkheer J. A. Roell, Aide-de-Camp to Her  
3      Majesty the Queen in Extraordinary Service, Vice-Admiral  
4      retired, ex-Minister of Marine.

5      Jonkheer L. H. Ruysenaers, Envoy Extraordinary and  
6      Minister Plenipotentiary, ex-Secretary-General of the Perma-  
7      nent Court of Arbitration.

8      His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias:

9      Baron Taube, Doctor of Laws, Councillor to the Imperial  
10     Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Professor of International Law at  
11     the University of St. Petersburg.

12     Who, after having communicated their full powers, found to  
13     be in good and due form, have agreed to make the present  
14     Declaration:—

15                                      PRELIMINARY PROVISION.

16     The Signatory Powers are agreed that the rules contained in  
17     the following Chapters correspond in substance with the gen-  
18     erally recognized principles of international law.

19                                      CHAPTER I. BLOCKADE IN TIME OF WAR.

20                                      ARTICLE 1.

21     A blockade must not extend beyond the ports and coasts  
22     belonging to or occupied by the enemy.

23                                      ARTICLE 2.

24     In accordance with the Declaration of Paris of 1856, a block-  
25     ade, in order to be binding, must be effective,—that is to say,  
26     it must be maintained by a force sufficient really to prevent  
27     access to the enemy coastline.

28                                      ARTICLE 3.

29     The question whether a blockade is effective is a question of  
30     fact.

31                                      ARTICLE 4.

32     A blockade is not regarded as raised if the blockading force  
33     is temporarily withdrawn on account of stress of weather.

34                                      ARTICLE 5.

35     A blockade must be applied impartially to the ships of all  
36     nations.

37                                      ARTICLE 6.

38     The Commander of a blockading force may give permission



