

## **German Dispatches and the Kaiser's Notes**

June-July, 1914

Vienna, June 30, 1914.

Dispatch from the German Ambassador at Vienna.  
(German Documents, No. 7.)

### **Dispatch**

...Here I hear even serious people express the desire of settling accounts with the Serbs once for all. A series of conditions\* should be sent to the Serbs, and, if they did not accept these, energetic steps should be taken. I\*\* take advantage of every such opportunity for quietly but earnestly discouraging precipitate measures.

### **Annotation by the Kaiser**

\*Now or never!

\*\*Who told him to do this? It is very foolish. This does not concern him in the least. It is entirely Austria's affair to decide what he is to do.

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Vienna, July 10, 1914.

Dispatch from the German Ambassador at Vienna.  
(German Documents, No. 2.)

### **Dispatch**

His Majesty discussed the situation with the greatest calm. Then he\*expressed his cordial thanks for the attitude of our august Sovereign and of the Imperial Government and declared that he now shared our opinion completely, that he thought as we did that a decision must be reached in order to put an end to the intolerable state of affairs in Serbia.

### **Annotation by the Kaiser**

\*As His Majesty's memorial is dated a fortnight ago, this thing is lasting too long. Nevertheless it was only drawn up in order to make clear the reasons for the decision.

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Vienna, July 14, 1914.

Dispatch from the German Ambassador at Vienna  
(German Documents, No. 49.)

### **Dispatch**

...The Count told me that he had been the man who had always advised prudence, but that every day had strengthened his opinion that the Monarchy must come to an energetic

decision in order to give proof of its vitality and put an end to the intolerable state of affairs existing in the southeast...\*

As to the time for the delivery to Serbia, it has been decided that it would be better to await the departure of M. Poincare from St. Petersburg-that is, the 25th...\*\*

**Annotation by the Kaiser**

\*Certainly.

\*\*That is too bad.

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Therapia, July 21, 1914.

Dispatch from the German Ambassador at Constantinople.

(German Documents, No. 99.)

**Dispatch**

...Not only Bulgaria,\* but also Rumania and Turkey, would range themselves unreservedly on the side of the Triple Alliance, if Austria should administer a severe lesson to Serbia.

**Annotation by the Kaiser**

\*We shall remind these gentlemen of this at the right moment.

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London, July 24, 1914.

Dispatch from the German Ambassador at London.

(German Documents, No. 157.)

**Dispatch**

...But he [Sir Edward Grey] doubted very much that it would be possible for the Russian Government to advise the Serbian Government\* to accept the Austrian demands without reservation; a state accepting such term would cease to count among independent states. He, Sir Edward Grey, found it difficult at this time to give advice to St. Petersburg.

**Annotation by the Kaiser**

\*This would be very desirable. It is not a state in the European sense of the word; it is a band of brigands!

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St. Petersburg. July 25, 1914.  
Dispatch from the German Ambassador at St. Petersburg.  
(German Documents. No. 160.)

**Dispatch**

...Russia knows\* what is owing from her to the monarchical principle, and the present case does not in the least affect this principle.

**Annotation by the Kaiser**

\*She knows this better since her fraternizing with the French Socialistic Republic.

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Berlin, July 25, 1914.  
Dispatch from the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs to the Emperor.  
(German Documents, No. 168.)

**Dispatch**

...The text of the Austrian note\* was written in such an aggressive and awkward fashion that public opinion in Europe and Italy would be against Austria, and so\*\* Italian Government could oppose it...

...My impression is that the only way to keep Italy\*\*\* in the Alliance is to promise her compensations soon enough in case Austria proceeds to make annexation of territory or occupies Lovcen.

**Annotation by the Kaiser**

\*He wanted to swindle Albania, and Austria has bristled up.

\*\*Piffle!

\*\*\*The little thief always wants to gobble up something whenever the rest do.

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Berlin, July 5, 1914.  
Dispatch from the Imperial Chancellor to the Emperor.  
(German Documents, No. 182.)

**Dispatch**

\*The Chief of Staff of the Navy informs me that Your Majesty, in view of a telegram issued by the Wolff Agency, has ordered the fleet to prepare to return rapidly to German harbors...

**Annotation by the Kaiser**

\*It is unbelievable that such intention should be credited to me! Unheard of! Never would

I have thought of such a thing after my Minister reported to me the mobilization at Belgrade! That may bring about mobilization by Russia, which will cause Austrian mobilization! In that case I must concentrate my force on land and sea. In the Baltic there is not a single warship! Moreover, I am not in the habit of taking my military measures in accordance with a Wolff telegram, but with an eye to the general situation, which is what the civilian Chancellor has as yet been unable to understand.

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London, July 29, 1914.  
Dispatch from the German Ambassador at London.  
(German Documents. No. 368.)

**Dispatch**

Sir Edward Grey\* has just summoned me. The Minister was absolutely calm, but very serious, and he received me with the word that the situation was becoming more and more tense...

\*\*But he deemed mediation an urgent necessity if those concerned did not wish to have things become a European catastrophe...

**Annotation by the Kaiser**

\*The strongest and most unparalleled trait of English pharisaism that I ever saw! Never would I make an agreement concerning the fleet with such low-down fellows!

\*\*If, instead of mediation, there should be a warning to St. Petersburg and Paris to the effect that England would not help them, it would immediately calm matters. England uncovers herself, now that she thinks us chasing scarecrows and that our fate is, so to speak, sealed. The vile rabble of shopkeepers ought to deceive us by means of dinner and speeches. The grossest deceit lay in the words addressed to me by the King through Henry: "We shall remain neutral and try to keep out of this as long as possible." Grey inflicts a denial upon the King and what he said to Lichnowky is due to his remorse because he feels that he has deceived us. At the same time, it is a threat combined with a bluff for detaching us from Austria, preventing mobilization, and throwing back upon us the responsibility for war. He knows quite well that if he said one single word in earnest and energetically to Paris and St. Petersburg and invited them to be neutral, both would instantly be quiet. But, instead of this, he threatens us! The ignoble clown! Vile dog's excrement! England alone bears the responsibility for war or peace and it is no longer we! This must be proved publicly!

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(German Document. No.401)

**Annotation by the Kaiser**

...Here we have, in all its nakedness, the terrible situation slowly and surely engineered

by Edward VII, continued and systematically developed by conversations, afterward denied, of England with Paris and St. Petersburg, and finally brought to its conclusion by George V, and now to be made a reality. Thus, he stupidity and awkwardness of our ally are to be the rope for hanging us... A grandiose conception that arouses admiration even in him who is to be ruined thereby! Edward VII, after his death, is stronger than I, who am alive I... And we are caught in the noose... Now all these machinations should be exposed pitilessly, the mask of Christian pacifism should be publicly torn off, and this Pharisaical hypocrisy about peace should be pilloried! And our consuls in Turkey and the Indies, our agents, etc., should foment a savage insurrection of the entire Mussulman world against this nation of odious shopkeepers, these conscienceless liars, since, even if we are to be bled white, England must at least lose India.

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London, August 1, 1914,  
Dispatch from the German Ambassador at London.  
(German Document. No. 596.)

### **Dispatch**

\*Sir Edward Grey has just read me the following declaration which has been unanimously adopted by the Cabinet:

"His Majesty's Government cannot for a moment entertain the Chancellor's proposal that they should bind themselves to neutrality on such terms. What he asks us in effect is to engage to stand by while French Colonies are taken if France is beaten, so long as Germany does not take French territory as distinct from the colonies... Such a proposal is unacceptable, for France, without further territory in Europe being taken from her, could be so crushed as to lose her position as a Great Power, and become subordinate to German policy. Altogether apart from that, it would be a disgrace for us to make this bargain with Germany at the expense of France, a disgrace from which the good name of this country would never recover. The Chancellor also in effect asks us to bargain away whatever obligation or interest we have as regards the neutrality of Belgium. We could not entertain that bargain either. We must preserve our full freedom to act, as circumstances may seem to us to require....

...When I asked him whether, if we respected Belgian neutrality, he could give me a definite declaration that\*\* Great Britain would remain neutral, the Minister answered that this was not possible for him, but that this question would play a great role in public\*\*\* opinion here...

...He had also asked himself if it would not be possible for us and for France, in case of a Russian war, to stand in arms opposite each other without attacking. I asked him whether he was in a position to state to me that France would enter into a compact of this nature.

### **Annotation by the Kaiser**

\*The rubbish talked by this man Grey shows that he has absolutely no idea what he ought

to do. Now we shall await England's decision. I have just learned that England has cut the Emden cable. This is a war measure! And while he is still negotiating.

**\*\*What a low cheat!**

**\*\*\*The fellow is insane or an idiot! Moreover, the French began the war and violated international law by having their aviators throw bombs. My impression is that Mr. Grey is a low scoundrel who is afraid of his own dirty tricks and of his lying policy, who does not wish to take part openly against us, but wishes to be forced to do so by us.**

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Rome, August 1, 1914.  
Dispatch from the German Ambassador at Rome.  
(German Documents, No. 614.)

**Dispatch**

...He made ceaseless repetition of the external\* and internal reasons militating here against participation in the war...

...Through a man in the confidence of M. Barriere I have received\*\*secret information that M. Barriere declared that the Italian Government had taken steps to draw closer to the English Government. Perhaps, in spite of the denial of the Marquis di San Giuliano, conversation\*\*\* have already been begun with England.

**Annotation by the Kaiser**

\*The rascal! The King has not yet answered me even!

\*\*So if we do not respect Belgian neutrality England will attack us and Italy detach herself from us - that is the situation in a nutshell!

\*\*\*So our allies are betraying us also!

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Rome. August 4, 1914.  
Dispatch from the German Ambassador at Rome.  
(German Documents, No. 850.)

**Dispatch**

...Even a partisan of the Triple Alliance like Giolitti, who has just returned here, thinks that the casus foederis has not arisen, that the country needs tranquility and\* should remain neutral, since there is no reason for its active participation.

**Annotation by the Kaiser**

\*The unbelievable scoundrel!