Cartoon about American's attitude towards the War in Europe.

Baseball World Series cartoon parody of trench warfare.

*Dallas Morning News, August 1917*
See the coded form of the Zimmermann Telegram

Zimmermann Telegram as Received by the German Ambassador to Mexico, 01/19/1917
Record Group 59: General Records of the Department of State, 1756 - 1979
National Archives and Records Administration
ARC Identifier 302025

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We intend to begin on the first of February unrestricted submarine warfare. We shall endeavor in spite of this to keep the United States of America neutral. In the event of this not succeeding, we make Mexico a proposal of alliance on the following basis: make war together, make peace together, generous financial support and an understanding on our part that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The settlement in detail is left to you. You will inform the President of the above most secretly as soon as the outbreak of war with the United States of America is certain and add the suggestion that he should, on his own initiative, invite Japan to immediate adherence and at the same time mediate between Japan and ourselves. Please call the President's attention to the fact that the ruthless employment of our submarines now offers the prospect of compelling England in a few months to make peace.” Signed, ZIMMERMANN.
A Copy of the telegram circulated through the United States Senate

STEP TAKEN ON JANUARY 19.

A copy of Zimmermann's instructions to Von Eckhardt, sent through Von Bernstorff, is in possession of the United States Government. It is as follows:

BERLIN, JANUARY 19, 1917.

On the 1st of February we intend to begin submarine warfare unrestricted. In spite of this, it is our intention to endeavor to keep neutral the United States of America.

If this attempt is not successful, we propose an alliance on the following basis with Mexico: That we shall make war together and together make peace. We shall give general financial support, and it is understood that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona. The details are left to you for settlement.

MEXICO TO BRING IN JAPAN.

You are instructed to inform the President of Mexico of the above in the greatest confidence as soon as it is certain that there will be an outbreak of war with the United States and suggest that the President of Mexico, on his own initiative, should communicate with Japan suggesting adherence at once to this plan; at the same time, offer to mediate between Germany and Japan.

Please call to the attention of the President of Mexico that the employment of ruthless submarine warfare now promises to compel England to make peace in a few months.

ZIMMERMANN.
Mr. LODGE. I ask that it be read.
The message was read, as follows:

To the Senate:
In response to the resolution adopted by the Senate on March 1, 1917, requesting the President to furnish the Senate, if not incompatible with the public interest, whatever information he has concerning the note published in the press of this date purporting to have been sent January 19, 1917, by the German Secretary for Foreign Affairs to the German minister to Mexico, I transmit herewith a report by the Secretary of State, which has my approval.

Woolworth Wilson.

The White House,
Washington, March 1, 1917.

To the President:
The resolution adopted by the United States Senate on March 1, 1917, requesting that that body be furnished, if not incompatible with the public interest, whatever information you have concerning the note published in the press of this date purporting to have been sent January 19, 1917, by the German Secretary for Foreign Affairs to the German minister to Mexico, I have the honor to state that the Government is in possession of evidence which establishes the fact that the note referred to is authentic, and that it is in the possession of the Government of the United States, and that the evidence was procured by this Government during the present week, but that it is, in my opinion, incompatible with the public interest to send to the Senate at the present time any further information in the possession of the Government of the United States relative to the note mentioned in the resolution of the Senate.

Respectfully submitted.

Robert Lansing.

Read about the Senate’s request for more information about the telegram.

U.S. Congressional Record, Senate Second Session of the 64th Congress vol. LIV, 1917. 4618
See Texan reaction to Zimmermann Telegram.

Dallas Morning News
21 March 1917
Political Cartoon illustrating
Texas reaction to the
Zimmermann Telegram

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GERMANY PLOTTING TO INVOLVE MEXICO AND JAPAN IN-WAR WITH UNITED STATES; TEXAS, NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA CARRANZA'S SHARE OF SPOILS FOR CAUSING JAPAN TO TURN TRAITOR TO ENTENTE

OFFICIAL LETTER FROM ZIMMERMANN TO GERMAN AMBASSADOR IN MEXICO CITY NOW IN HANDS OF ADMINISTRATION BERNSTOFF'S PART IN PLOT EXPOSED—CARRANZA'S RECENT PEACE NOTE EXPLAINED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The Associated Press is enabled to reveal that Germany, in planning unrestricted submarine warfare and countering its consequences, proposed an alliance with Mexico and Japan to make war on the United States if this country should not remain neutral.

Japan, through Mexican mediation, was to be urged to abandon her alliance and join in the attack on the United States.

Mexico, for her part, was to receive generous, social support from Germany, reconquer Texas, New Mexico and Arizona—lost provinces—and share in the victorious peace terms Germany contemplated.

Details were left to German Minister von Eckhardt in Mexico City, who, by instructions signed by German Foreign Minister Zimmermann at Berlin, January 19, 1917, was directed to propose the alliance with Mexico to General Carranza and suggest that Mexico seek to bring Japan into the plot.

These instructions were transmitted to Von Eckhardt through Count von Bernstorff, former German Ambassador here, now on his way home to Germany under a safe conduct obtained from his enemies by the country against which he was plotting war.

Germany pictured to Mexico, by broad intimations, England and the entente allies defeated, Germany and her allies triumphant and in world domination by the instrument of unrestricted submarine warfare.

A copy of Zimmermann's instructions to Von Eckhardt, sent through Von Bernstorff, is in possession of the United States Government. It is as follows:

"Berlin, January 19, 1917.—On the first of February we intend to begin submarine warfare unrestricted. In spite of this, it is our intention to endeavor to keep neutral the United States of America.

"If this attempt is not successful we propose an alliance on the following basis with Mexico: That we make war together and together make peace. We shall give general financial support and it is understood that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in New Mexico, Texas and Arizona. The details are left to you for settlement.

"You are instructed to inform the President of Mexico of the above in the greatest confidence as soon as it is certain that there will be an outbreak of war with the United States and suggest that the President of Mexico, on his own initiative, should communicate with Japan suggesting adherence at once to this plan, at the same time offer to mediate between Germany and Japan.

"Please call to the attention of the President of Mexico that the employment of ruthless submarine warfare now promises to compel England to make peace in a few months. (Signed) ZIMMERMANN."

This document has been in the hands of the Government since President Wilson broke off diplomatic relations with Germany. It has been kept secret, while the President has been asking Congress for full authority to deal with Germany, and while Congress has been hesitating. It was in the President's hands while Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg was declaring that the United States had placed an interpretation on the submarine declaration "never intended by Germany," and that Germany had promoted and honored friendly relations with the United States "as an heirloom from Frederick the Great."

Of itself, if there were no other, it is considered a sufficient answer to the German Chancellor's plaint that the United States "brusquely" broke off relations without giving "authentic" reasons for its action.

Dallas Morning News
1 August 1917
Zimmermann Telegram

Zimmermann Telegram unveiled to Texas citizens
Defeat the Kaiser and his U-Boats. Victory depends on which fails first, food or frightfulness. Eat less WHEAT.


Propaganda posters condemning Germany and her U-boats.
Dallas Morning News
2 August 1917

Read about British reaction to the Telegram

U.S. war poster, note depiction of German Vs. American soldier

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Almost coincident with Zubaran’s return from Germany, Cabrera returned to Mexico City, open in his expressions of anti-Americanism. Zubaran, before being sent abroad, had represented General Carranza here while the Niagara mediation conferences were proceeding, and was no less avowedly anti-American than Cabrera.

Carranza’s peace proposal was openly pronounced as evidence of German influence in Mexico by officials here, who declared it was intended only to embarrass the United States. Then apparently some influences showed their effect on the course of the Mexican government, and on Feb. 25 Cabrera, the Minister of Finance, issued a statement describing the “amazement” of the Mexican government that the American newspapers should have interpreted General Carranza’s proposal to cut off exports of munitions as a suggestion that he might cut off shipments of British oil. They were. Cabrera declared, “entirely groundless.”

Meanwhile Baron von Schoen, secretary of the German embassy here, was transferred to the legation in Mexico City. No explanation could be obtained of the reason for his transfer and such investigation as was possible failed to develop why a secretary from the United States should be sent to the German legation in Mexico. Baron von Schoen’s association with the moves, if any at all, does not appear. The only outward indication that he might have been connected with them is found in the fact that he recently had been detached from the German embassy in Tokio and was well acquainted with the Japanese Minister in Mexico City.

There was an intimation that Germany’s astounding proposal that Japan turn traitor to her allies had been answered by Tokio.

EMBASSY WAS HEADQUARTERS.

Count von Bernstorff’s connection with the plot, further than serving as a channel of communication, is intensified by the fact that the German embassy here was not merely the medium of delivering a message in this instance, but was really a sort of headquarters for all the German missions in Central and South America.

Read about Mexico’s actions after the telegram and U.S. suspicion.

Dallas Morning News
1 August 1917
Read about Japan's reaction to the telegram.

Dallas Morning News
3 August 1917
Cartoon about congressional reaction to Zimmermann Telegram.

Dallas Morning News
3 August 1917
Editorial cartoon on rush to war.
IN SAFE HANDS

Woodrow Wilson deserves the implicit confidence of that great majority of the people of the United States who earnestly desire peace. For two years, in the most trying circumstances, under great and repeated provocation, he showed an unwavering determination to keep the United States out of war if that could possibly be done without surrendering rights of such a fundamental nature that none but a contemptible Nation would surrender them.

Last April—a year after the sinking of the Lusitania—he stated the terms upon which this country would continue friendly relations with Germany. The country unquestionably approved that statement. The only notable objections came from those who resented its moderation. After careful consideration, Germany chose to reject those terms. The choice lay with her. When she chose to reject our terms the United States had no choice but to terminate friendly relations.

The situation was thrust upon the President after he had done the utmost to avoid it that national self-respect would permit. On his record all those who sincerely wish peace, but would not purchase it by surrender of vital rights, must give him their complete confidence. His course throughout demonstrated that he was a trustworthy guardian of their interests. Whatever could reasonably be done to avoid war, he would do.

All attempts to discredit and harass him in the crisis were unworthy and should have no countenance. The fatuous and transparent agitation for a referendum previous to a declaration of war was only, in effect, an attempt to get a vote of lack of confidence in the President and to tie his hands; so that, no matter what indignities or outrages might come, the Government of the United States must stand idle for weeks with its hands in its pockets—a spectacle for the laughter and scorn of the nations—while an electioneering diversion was carried out.

Give no countenance to any attempt to discredit and harass the President. He has deserved your confidence. Let him know he has it. —Saturday Evening Post.

Read about Pro-Wilson feelings in Texas.

Dallas Morning News
2 August 1917
Reprint of Saturday Evening Post article supporting President Wilson
See a cartoon about Europe’s reaction to America’s entry into the war.

The New York Times Current History: 
*The European War* Vol. XIII, October-December, 1917, 177.
Dallas Morning News
31 August 1917

Read about the British Empire's finical dependence on the U.S.

For Liberty Civilization Humanity. New York: Il Cittadino, n.d. (Poster, 24"x14." “from the original cast by E. Cammilli.”)

U.S. propaganda poster

University of North Texas Libraries

After America enters the war read about its effect on daily life in Texas.
Poster encouraging citizens to support troops.

Primary Source
Adventures: Failed Diplomacy: The Zimmermann Telegram


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