

SEIZURE OF PORTS TO BE FIRST MOVE IN MEXICO; WILSON OPPOSED TO WAR

PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON

CONGRESS HEARS MESSAGE ON SITUATION

PRESIDENT VICTORIANO HUERTA



Washington, D. C., April 20.—President Wilson today answered Huerta's defiance by asking congress, assembled in joint session, for approval to "use the armed forces of the United States in such ways and to such extent as may be necessary to obtain from Huerta and his adherents fullest recognition of the rights and dignity of the United States." The president did not ask for an appropriation at this time or for authority to call out the national guard.



"There can be no thought of aggression or of self-aggrandizement," he declared to sober-faced senators and representatives, who packed the hall of the house. "This government can, I earnestly hope, in no circumstances be forced into war with the people of Mexico. If armed conflict should unhappily come as a result of his (Huerta's) attitude of personal resentment toward this government, we should be fighting only General Huerta and those who adhere to him and give him support, and our object would be only to restore to the people of that distracted republic an opportunity to set up again their own laws and own government."

No Thought of Aggrandizement.

"There can, in what we do, be no thought of selfish aggrandizement. We seek to maintain the dignity and authority of the United States only because we wish always to keep our great influence unimpaired for the uses of liberty both in the United States and wherever else it may be employed for the benefit of mankind."

The president devoted half of his time to a review of the Tampico incident, pointing out that two men had actually been taken from a boat, saying the offense was only one of a series, and adding: "Subsequent explanations and formal apologies could not alter the popular impression, which it is possible it had been the object of Huerta's authorities to create, that the government of the United States might be singled out with impunity for slights and affronts in retaliation for its refusal to recognize the pretension of General Huerta."

"The manifest danger in such a situation is that such offenses might grow from bad to worse, until something happened so gross and intolerable as to lead directly to armed conflict. It was necessary that the apologies of Huerta and his representatives be such as to attract the attention of the entire population to their significance and impress upon General Huerta himself the necessity of seeing that no further occasion for explanations should arise. Therefore I felt it my duty to sustain Admiral Mayo in the whole of his demand."

The president then details Huerta's refusal to salute unconditionally and outlined his plans. He said Huerta was holding power without right and that only part of the country is under his control.

"If armed conflict should unhappily come as a result of his attitude of personal resentment towards this government, we should be fighting only General Huerta, and our object would be to restore to the people of the distracted republic an opportunity to set up again their own laws and own government," said Wilson.

Does Not Seek Control.

"But I earnestly hope war is not now in question. I believe I speak for the American people when I say we do not desire to control in any degree the affairs of our sister republic. We would not wish even to exercise the good offices of friendship without their welcome and consent. The people of Mexico are entitled to settle their own domestic affairs in their own way. The present situation need have none of the grave complications of interference if we deal with it promptly, firmly, wisely."

"No doubt I could do what is necessary in the circumstances to enforce respect for our government without recourse to congress, and yet not exceed my constitutional powers as president, but I do not wish to act except in close cooperation with both the senate and house."

"I therefore come to ask your approval that I should use the armed forces of the United States in such ways and to such extent as may be necessary to obtain from General Huerta and his adherents the fullest recognition of the rights and dignities of the United States."

"There can, in what we do, be no thought of aggression or selfish aggrandizement. We seek to maintain the dignity and authority of the United States only because we wish always to keep our great influence unimpaired for causes of liberty both in the United States and wherever else it may be employed for the benefit of mankind."

DICTATOR STILL INSISTING THERE HAS BEEN NO INSULT

Mexico City, April 20.—The Mexican capitol awaited with interest today the next word from Washington in reply to the refusal of Huerta to comply with the American demands. All the morning papers published lengthy statements by the Mexican foreign minister, Portillo y Rojas, outlining the reasons for the position Huerta had taken, namely that the American flag was not flying on the boat when blue-jackets were arrested on shore at Tampico, therefore the flag is not insulted, and that compliance with the demand for a salute would be humiliating to Mexico.

Huerta has advised Mexicans to refrain from demonstrations which might embarrass possible future negotiations. Many American residents made preparations to stay in Mexico, whatever the outcome of the crisis, unless ordered to leave by the Mexican government.

Clearing Vera Cruz Harbor. Vera Cruz, April 20.—Commander Hughes, chief of staff of the United States Atlantic fleet today called on General Maas, commander of federal troops at Vera Cruz, and on the commander of the port and instructed them to order all merchant vessels out of the harbor.

All American women have been asked by Consul Canada to take refuge on vessels now in the harbor, preferably on two commercial vessels chartered by the United States.

Mexico City, April 20.—The Mexican foreign minister, Senor Portillo y Rojas, announced last night that it would be impossible to agree to the demand of the United States that the flag of that country be unconditionally saluted, because that flag was not insulted, because it was not flying from the launch and because the marines were set free even before an investigation, and that the officer responsible for the arrests was himself arrested and held for trial.

The foreign minister further announced that the Mexican government would agree that both flags be saluted, the American flag first and then the Mexican flag, this arrangement to be made by a protocol signed by the American charge d'affaires, Nelson O'Shaughnessy, and the Mexican foreign minister.

The United States government, Senor Portillo declared, had refused permission to Charge O'Shaughnessy to sign such a protocol and demanded an unconditional salute by Mexico, which Mexico felt was incompatible with its dignity.

In conclusion the foreign minister said: "Mexico has yielded as much as its dignity will permit. Mexico trusts to the fair-mindedness and spirit of justice of the American people."

Carranza and Villa Meet. Juarez, Mexico, April 20.—A conference between Carranza and Villa, considered of great moment by rebels, began at Chihuahua today. It is understood that unless rebel territory is invaded, officials will take no part in opposing the United States over the Tampico incident.

DUNNE PROMISES FORCE OF 50,000

Governor Says That Number Could Be Mobilized at Capital in 30 Days.

Springfield, Ill., April 20.—After a conference with Adjutant General Shand, Governor Dunne declared that Illinois within 30 days could have 50,000 men mobilized at Springfield for service in Mexico and in another 30 days could have 10,000 ready. "Time has come," said the governor, "when patience ceased to be a virtue."

CLOSING PORTS OF TAMPICO AND VERA CRUZ NOT AN ACT OF WAR, DECLARES PRESIDENT

Washington, D. C., April 20.—President Wilson returned to the capitol at 7:45 this morning. A heavy rain was falling as the president and Mrs. Wilson hurried in an automobile to the White house, where the president was to meet the cabinet at 10:30. Shortly after 9 Secretary Bryan went into conference with the president in the latter's study. There were no new developments up to that time.

Asked if he considered plans for the seizure of Tampico and Vera Cruz an act of war, the president replied: "Certainly not," and referred to Greytown as a precedent in which that Nicaraguan town was destroyed as an act of reprisal by a British warship.

Only Issue With Huerta. "Don't get the impression that we are going to war with Mexico," the president told the Washington correspondents. "We are its friends. I am going to congress to tell of a special situation and request approval of plans to meet that special situation. This is only an issue between this government and the person calling himself president of Mexico."

"We never have conceded his right to call himself president of Mexico. In no circumstances would we fight the people of that country. We want to help them in every way we can. I got a feeling of uneasiness today when I read the papers and found them fired with an enthusiasm for war. I have no enthusiasm for war. I want justice. This need not eventuate in war if we handle it with firmness and promptness."

The Mexican crisis today awaited Wilson's presentation of the situation to congress. There was no further word from Huerta and officials said nothing but complete compliance with

all American demands could prevent Wilson from appearing before a joint session of congress, probably at 3 p. m. and asking authority to use the army and navy to uphold the honor and dignity of the nation.

Leaders Back Up President. House and senate leaders were early at the White house to learn details of the president's plans so they might be prepared with resolutions putting congress squarely behind the president and giving him full authority to act.

While plans were not officially disclosed it was conceded in official circles the president would ask congress for authority to use what is known in international law as "measures short of war," which, while not being a declaration of war on the part of the United States might so be construed by Huerta. According to the best information of officials these consist of the following:

Seizure of the ports of Tampico and Vera Cruz. Seizure of Mexican gunboats in those waters. Seizure of the railroad from Vera Cruz to the Mexican capitol to a point within 20 miles of Vera Cruz, with probably a request for a special appropriation to carry out these measures.

In the navy establishment everything is in preparation for action. Still Mexico's Friend.

President Wilson told newspaper correspondents today not to get the impression the United States was going to have war with Mexico. He pointed out that under no circumstances would the United States fight the Mexican people, but that it was their friend. Wilson said he was going before congress to tell of a special situation and ask approval of plans to

meet that special situation. He declared the issue only one between the United States and the man who calls himself the president of Mexico, but whom the United States never recognized as entitled to that right. The president declared the intention of the United States was to help the people of Mexico and that he had gotten a feeling of uneasiness when he found the newspapers fired with enthusiasm for war.

Not War, But Justice. Wilson declared he did not want war, but justice. He did not consider such acts of reprisal as are planned acts of war, but measures short of war, sustained by the Greytown precedent for one. The president said, strictly speaking, it was not necessary to obtain authority, but it was his desire to have the full cooperation of congress. The executive, he said, could take steps which fall short of a declaration of war. The president said not less patience with Mexico, but felt that recent incidents might go from bad to worse and eventually bring conflict. Events by Huerta, such as final acceptance by Huerta, might alter his plans. The Tampico incident, the president said, did not involve the elimination of Huerta. The president said his message of 1,000 words would take 10 minutes to read. He declined to give copies.

For Large Volunteer Army. It is understood military authorities are preparing recommendations to congress looking to immediate passage of legislation providing a large volunteer army based on the Hay bill, already passed by the house, which would permit mustering into the federal service of militia organizations, with officers, providing 75 per cent of

FIVE THOUSAND TROOPS ON TEXAS COAST READY TO SAIL

Houston, Texas, April 20.—The second division of the United States army here on practice march, began a hurried movement back to Texas City and Galveston today upon orders from Washington at 3 o'clock this morning. The fifth brigade of the division was rushed aboard troop trains, but the remainder of the big army, united, which brought nearly ten thousand men here, was ordered to "hike" back to the coast on foot, a distance of 60 miles.

The plan was to have the Fifth, numbering 5,000 men, ready for sailing to Vera Cruz by Tuesday morning in case troop movements would be ordered.

Flotilla Ordered to Sea. Pensacola, Fla., April 20.—A flotilla of 20 torpedo boat destroyers was ordered put to sea this afternoon to meet Admiral Badger's fleet in the gulf and accompany it to Tampico. Officials said they were all ready.

The militia organizations were willing to do so. The attitude of Carranza and Villa, leaders of the constitutionalists, Secretary Bryan said, he considered very favorable. Senator Martin, chairman of the appropriations committee, expressed the belief that an emergency appropriation was not necessary at this time, but that an appropriation of \$50,000,000 would be made, if asked by the president. Secretary Garrison said no orders had been issued for the movement of troops.

Americans Warned to Leave. American consuls have been wired to warn Americans to leave. The house and senate unanimously passed resolutions for a joint session at 3 o'clock. Grave of face, members of the house stood while Chaplain Couden brought home the situation in prayer.

A bill to appropriate \$50,000,000 to be expended by the president was introduced by Senator Chamberlain and referred to the military committee, of which he is chairman. The bill is identical to the one passed before the war with Spain. No orders had been sent to Admiral Badger's fleet, Secretary Daniels said.

before the cabinet meeting. Official advices say Americans in Mexico are beginning to leave. It is understood hundreds left Mexico City yesterday for Vera Cruz.

Street Little Affected. New York, April 20.—The Mexican situation, although the chief topic of discussion in the financial district, had but little effect on Wall street. On the London exchange, however, business was effectually checked.

THE WEATHER

Forecast Till 7 p. m. Tomorrow, for Rock Island, Davenport, Moline and Vicinity.

Mostly cloudy tonight and Tuesday; warmer. Fresh winds, mostly southerly. Temperature at 7 a. m., 31. Highest yesterday, 42. Lowest last night, 31. Wind velocity at 7 a. m., 10 miles. Relative humidity at 7 p. m., 67; at 7 a. m., 65. Precipitation in 24 hours, none. Stage of river at 7 a. m., 4.1; no change in 48 hours. J. M. SHERIER, Local Forecaster.

HISTORY OF HUERTA QUARREL

APRIL 9—Assistant Paymaster and squad of bluejackets of the dispatch boat Dolphin are arrested at wharf in Tampico while loading gasoline into whale boat. Rear Admiral Henry T. Mayo, senior naval officer there, demands apology and firing of national salute to American flag to make complete amends for the warlike act.

APRIL 10—General Zaragoza, Mexican commander at Tampico, makes apology, but asks for permission to communicate with President Huerta as to firing of salute. Mail orderly from American battleship in Tampico is arrested, but later released.

APRIL 11—President Wilson instructs Charge O'Shaughnessy to demand that Huerta order firing of salute at Tampico. Cipher message from state department to O'Shaughnessy is held up by military censor in the City of Mexico.

APRIL 13—Huerta apologizes for Tampico arrests, but refuses to order firing of salute to the American flag.

APRIL 14—President Wilson rushes fleet to Tampico and other Mexican ports and renews demand for firing of salute.

APRIL 15—Huerta gives conditional promise to fire salute and inquires whether it will be returned by American vessel. He is informed that it will be returned, as originally promised by Admiral Mayo.

APRIL 16—Huerta asks whether United States will agree to firing of "simultaneous salute," but is informed that he must fire salute first and it will then be returned by American vessel.

APRIL 17—Huerta submits another dilatory message, which President Wilson rejects without consideration.

APRIL 18—Tired of Huerta's quibbling, President Wilson sends ultimatum demanding firing of the salute before 6 p. m. April 19, or a promise to fire one at a stipulated date. More warships are sent to Mexican waters.

APRIL 19—Huerta asks that Charge O'Shaughnessy give assurance in writing that United States will return salute. He asks also for more time to consider ultimatum. Both these requests are refused. Additional war vessels are ordered to Tampico.

WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

War.	Date.	U. S. troops engaged.
War of the revolution	1775-1783	309,781
Northwestern Indian wars	1790-1795	8,983
War with France	1798-1800	4,593
War with Tripoli	1801-1805	3,330
Creek Indian war	1812-1814	13,781
War of 1812	1812-1815	576,622
Seminole Indian war	1817-1818	7,911
Black Hawk Indian war	1831-1832	6,465
Cherokee disturbance	1836-1837	3,494
Creek Indian war	1836-1837	13,418
Florida Indian war	1835-1843	41,122
Aroostook disturbance	1846-1848	1,500
*War with Mexico	1846-1848	112,230
Apache, Navajo and Utah war	1849-1855	2,501
Seminole Indian war	1856-1858	3,687
Civil war	1861-1865	2,722,408
Spanish-American war	Apr.-Dec., 1898	274,717
Philippine insurrection	1899-1900	60,000

*Of this number 20,954 were regular and 73,776 militia and volunteers. War began April 14, 1846; ended July 4, 1848.