No. 1.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 22, 1861.

Sr.: Contrary to what usually happens in giving instructions to a minister going abroad, I am directed by the President to ask you to fix your attention in the first instance, and to keep it constantly fixed, on the actual condition of affairs at home. I allude, of course, to the unlawful and unconstitutional attempt which is being made to detach several of the States from the federal Union, and to organize them as an independent republic under the name of the "Confederate States of America."

You are well aware of what you will find Europeans unable to understand, namely, that owing to the very peculiar structure of our federal government, and the equally singular character and habits of the American people, this government not only wisely but necessarily hesitates to resort to coercion and compulsion to secure a return of the disaffected portion of the people to their customary allegiance. The Union was formed upon popular consent and must always practically stand on the same basis. The temporary causes of alienation must pass away; there must needs be disasters and disappointments resulting from the exercise of unlawful authority by the revolutionists, while happily it is certain that there is a general and profound sentiment of loyalty pervading the public mind throughout the United States. While it is the intention of the President to maintain the sovereignty and rightful authority of the Union everywhere with firmness as well as discretion, he at the same time relies with great confidence on the salutary working of the agencies I have mentioned, to restore the harmony and Union of the States. But to this end it is of the greatest importance that the disaffected States shall not succeed in obtaining favor or recognition from foreign nations.

It is understood that the so-called Confederate States of America have sent, or are about to send, agents to solicit such recognition in Europe, although there is no special reason for supposing Prussia to be one of the nations to which application will be made. An almost electric political connexion, however, exists between the several capitals of western Europe, and therefore your most efficient and unfailing efforts must be put forth directly, and even indirectly, to prevent the success of that ill-starred design.

This matter was deemed so important by the late administration that my predecessor, on the 28th of February last, made it a subject of a circular despatch, of which an original part was transmitted by him to Mr. Wright, who proceeded you in your mission.

The present administration entertain the same general view of the subject which in that despatch was taken by Mr. Buchanan. Accordingly, on the 9th day of March instant, I sent to our representatives abroad a new circular letter in which I reiterated and amplified the instructions which
had thus been given to them by Mr. Black. Although that circular will be
found in the archives of your legation, yet for your greater convenience I
append a copy of it to this communication.

This department has little more to add to that paper when it is read, as it
ought to be, in connexion with the President's inaugural address, on which
it rests for its basis.

It may, however, be well to call your attention to the fact that in that
communication, as in this, I have forborne altogether from discussing the
groundless complaints and pretexts which have been put forth by the organs
of disunion to justify the rash and perilous revolution which they are
attempting to inaugurat. I have practiced this reticence not because the
point is unimportant, but because the dispute is purely a domestic one, and
the President would not willingly have the archives of our legations bear
testimony to so un-American a proceeding as an acknowledgment, even by
indirection, that this government ever consented to join issue upon a purely
family matter of this kind with a portion of our own citizens before a foreign
tribunal. Nevertheless, should you find that any weight is given to those
complaints and pretexts in the court to which you are accredited, your per-
fected knowledge of all the transactions involved, will, I am sure, enable you
to meet them conclusively and satisfactorily without precise instructions on
that point.

You will not take up any subject of controversy or debate that may arise
between the governments of Prussia and the United States, without first
communicating the matter to this department, and you will practice the
same forbearance on any subject of controversy which your predecessor
may have left for your attention. These instructions are given you because
it is our first and most earnest desire and expectation that you will avoid
all possible forms of offence or irritation, and will, on the other hand,
endeavor to establish the most friendly and cordial relations with the govern-
ment of the King of Prussia. With this view you will assure his Majesty
that the President and people of the United States entertain sentiments of
the highest respect and sincere good will for his Majesty and the people of
Prussia.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

NORMAN B. JUDD, Esq, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Wright to Mr. Seward.

[Extract.]

United States Legation,
Berlin, May 8, 1861.

Sir: I have, since my return, had a long interview with Baron Von
Schleinitz, the minister for foreign affairs, who, whilst he expressed the
earest sympathy of his government with the American people in their
present troubles, not only because of the effect of such disturbances upon
the commerce of Europe, but also on account of the intimate relations
between the two countries, owing to the presence of a large German popula-
tion in the United States, gave me the most positive assurance that his
government, from the principle of unrelenting opposition to all revolutionary
movements, would be one of the last to recognize any *de facto* government of the disaffected States of the American Union.

The news of to-day has exerted the most unhappy influence upon the Americans here, and the universal sentiment is a profound desire and a hope for the restoration of peace in the United States. *

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, your very obedient servant,

JOSEPH A. WRIGHT.

His Excellency Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

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Mr. Wright to Mr. Seward.

[Extract.]

No. 174.]

UNITED STATES LEGATION,
Berlin, May 15, 1861.

Sir:

The proclamation of the President was received by the previous mail, and the subject has received due consideration.

On receipt of your circular dated the 20th of April, I immediately called upon Baron de Schleinitz, minister of foreign affairs, who had received the proclamation of the President, and he at once promptly informed me that, in his opinion, no apprehension need be entertained as to Prussian subjects engaging under the authority of the so-called Confederate States in fitting out privateers, or in any manner interfering with our commerce. Prussia has but few ports. Hers is not a sea-faring people, and the sympathies of the government and of the people are with the United States. Whatever danger may be apprehended on this subject must come from Bremen, Hamburg, and other ports situated in Oldenburg, Hanover, &c. Due vigilance will be used to prevent any such unlawful interference, and if any such be detected the proper authorities will be promptly advised thereof; and every effort will be made to suppress it. Not knowing whether your circular has been sent to the consuls, I have forwarded copies to several already.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH A. WRIGHT.

His Excellency Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

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Mr. Wright to Mr. Seward.

[Extract.]

No. 175.]

UNITED STATES LEGATION,
Berlin, May 26, 1861.

Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of a recent communication to the minister of foreign affairs. Prussia will take efficient steps to sustain the government of the
United States in the protection of property and commerce, and will do all she can, consistently with her obligations to other governments, to sustain the vigorous action of our government in maintaining law and order.

The minister of foreign affairs, Baron Von Schleinitz, informed me on yesterday that it was the intention of the government to issue a proclamation touching these questions.

The government and people are, in spirit and feeling, with us. I am in the receipt of hundreds of letters and personal calls seeking positions in the American army, and asking for means of conveyance to our shores. So numerous, indeed, are the applications, that I have been compelled to place on the doors of the legation a notice to the purport that "This is the legation of the United States, and not a recruiting office." The fidelity and firmness exhibited with such unanimity by our own people in sustaining the administration in their efforts to put down the outrages of the so-called "Confederate States," whilst it astonishes the people of the old world, is at the same time rapidly creating a sentiment of confidence in our ability to maintain unimpaired the institutions of our fathers.

Let the cost be what it may, we must vindicate the memory of our fathers from the slanders announced by those in high places in the so-called "Confederate States," wherein they have proclaimed ours is only a confederation of States, and not a national union.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH A. WRIGHT.

His Excellency Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Wright to Mr. Seward.

[Extracts.]

No. 176.] United States Legation, Berlin, June 8, 1861.

Sir: Although the Prussian government has not issued a proclamation upon the subject referred to in my last despatch, I still continue to receive from the minister of foreign affairs the strongest assurances of the sympathies and friendship of this government.

Your circular of the 6th of May has been received, but the subject had been duly considered previously thereto. No opportunity will be neglected to counteract any efforts that may be made by individuals or associations in negotiations hostile to the United States.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH A. WRIGHT.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, Washington, D C.
Mr. Wright to Mr. Seward.

[Extract.]

No. 178.]

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UNITED STATES LEGATION,
Berlin, June 25, 1861.

SIR:

I have received this moment a copy of the National Zeitung, containing the despatch of Baron Schleinitz to Baron Gerolt; and also an order from the minister of commerce, addressed to Prussian subjects engaged in trade and commerce. This is not what I had expected. I was anticipating a proclamation from the King more full and distinct. This will doubtless have the desired effect, as it will be published in all the German journals, and coming from Prussia will be duly respected by the German States and Free Cities. Their sympathy and spirit is with the United States government.

Mr. Judd is expected on the 27th instant.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH A. WRIGHT.

Hon. William H. Seward,
Secretary of State, Washington City.

Baron Schleinitz to Baron Gerolt.

[Translation.]

* * * * * * * * *

BERLIN, June 13, 1861.

The various herewith enclosed statements, by which your excellency has given me a knowledge of the occurrences through which the internal tranquility of the Union is disturbed, have called forth my serious consideration. The hope which, until now, we so willingly entertained, that the inchoate conflict between the government of the United States and sundry of the southern States of the Union would be brought to an amicable settlement, is now, unhappily, in view of existing conditions, borne back to a far distance.

The indubitable fact of the state of the intestine warfare in which the Union is placed is a source of deep regret to the King's government. The relations of close friendship which connect Prussia and the government of the United States exist from the foundation of the Union. They have endured nearly a hundred years; never at any time disturbed by change of circumstances, nor in any wise impaired.

By a series of treaties, by means of which the improvement of the interests of manufacture and commerce on either side has been eminently developed, the intimate relations between the two States have attained a prosperous durability. At no time, between these two powers, has any collision of antagonistic interests found a foothold. The soaring flight which the internal prosperity of the Union has taken, extending its range from year to year by means of the bond of unity of the States thus knit together, the commanding attitude which North America has attained, abroad, has been looked upon by Prussia not merely with no dissatisfaction but has rather been greeted by her with honest sympathy.

The more earnestly, then, do we regret that the continuance of so prosperous a condition of things should appear to be placed in question by the
inchoate disturbance of that internal unity, the unshaken existence of which had, until this time, formed the surest foundation of the Union. It behooves not the royal government either to discuss the causes of existing controversies or to pass judgment upon those debatable questions which belong entirely to the domestic relations of the Union. Our whole endeavor in this matter must be addressed to sustaining the United States in their heretofore existing relations with us, even under the difficult circumstances of the present time.

Nevertheless, by the serious turn which the conflict that has broken out has already taken, and by the consequent self-reliant mode of proceeding of the government of the United States in relation to blockades, and the treatment of neutral navigation, essential and important interests on this side are also affected, and the royal government has taken into earnest consideration the protection thereof on grounds of international law and in conformity with treaty stipulations.

Your excellency has full knowledge of the negotiations which, through a series of years, were carried on between Prussia and the United States, upon the principles which ought to be brought into application in naval warfare in relation to the rights of neutral shipping. It is to the credit of the North American Cabinet that, in the year 1854, it availed itself of the plan of a treaty, proposed with us, to be first to take the initiative for putting the rights above mentioned in liberal and practical shape upon a broader foundation of well settled principles. We then willingly acceded to the North American proposition, and although the negotiations conducted by your excellency were closed without attaining the desired result, because a stand was then taken against that abolition of privateering which was suggested by us, it has, meantime, nevertheless, so fallen out that the general united desire to establish the recognition of the rights of neutral shipping during maritime warfare upon more extended and unassailable foundations has attracted, in praiseworthy degree, the attention of the great powers of Europe. The declaration upon maritime rights by the Paris convention, on the 16th April, 1856, stands in evidence of this. The collective States of Europe, with the exception of Spain only, gave their adhesion thereto. But the United States of North America, in regard to the first principle concerning the abolition of privateering, to our regret, thought proper to qualify their assent to the Paris declaration, if we do not misapprehend the liberal and well-intentioned views by which that cabinet was guided in the matter. These were made known in the proposition of President Pierce upon the subject, according to which the principle that private property on the seas should be altogether inviolable, should be included among the provisions of the law of nations. It is to be regretted that the President did not succeed in giving effect to his proposition. The estimation with which we regarded his course is sufficiently known to your excellency.

By reason of the consequently prevailing doubts about the treatment to which neutral shipping may be subjected during the condition of things there connected with an incipient state of war, I must request your excellency will please to make this interesting question the subject of a friendly and unreserved conference with the Secretary of State of that country.

It would certainly be most desirable to us that the government of the United States might embrace this occasion to announce their adhesion to the Paris declaration. Should this not be attained, then, for the present, we would urge that an exposition might be made, to be obligatory during the now commencing intestine war, in regard to the application generally of the second and third principles of the Paris declaration to neutral shipping. The provision of the second principle, that the neutral flag covers the
enemy’s cargo, (with exception of contraband of war,) is already assured
to Prussian shipping by our treaty with the United States of May 1, 1828,
again adopting article twelve of the treaty of September 10, 1785.

We lay much stress upon this toward bringing round a determination to
make application of this principle at the present time to neutral shipping
generally and universally. We doubt this the less because, according to a
despatch from the then President, addressed by the Secretary of State, L.
Cass, under date of June 27, 1859, to the minister of the United States in
Paris, and also communicated to us, without further referring to the Paris
declaration, it is expressly mentioned that the principle that the neutral flag
covers the enemy's cargo (contraband of war excepted) would be reduced
to application in respect to the shipping of the United States always, and in
its full extent.

The import of the third principle, by which neutral private property under
an enemy’s flag (except contraband of war) is inviolable, becomes, in respect
of its immediate recognition by the United States, a stringent necessity to
the neutral powers.

Let there be a doubt of the application of this principle, and the business
enterprises of neutral States are exposed to inevitable shocks, and collisions
of every conceivable kind are to be dreaded. To provide for the avoidance
of these in due season, we must at least anxiously desire.

It would minister greatly to my satisfaction if your excellency, as soon as
may be, could officially inform me that the overtures and propositions which
you are commissioned to make to the administration have found a favorable
reception.

SCHLEINITZ.

His Excellency Baron Von Gerolt, &c., &c., &c., Washington.

[Translation.]

On the same subject the minister of commerce issued the notification annexed
to the mercantile classes in the Baltic ports:

It is my duty to make known to you that during the continuance of the
conflict which has broken out among the North American States the mercantile
classes must abstain from all enterprises which are forbidden by the
general principles of international law, and especially by the ordinance of
the 12th of June, 1856, which has relation to the declaration of the 12th of
April, 1856, upon the principles of maritime law. Moreover, I will not omit
to make it especially noticeable by you that the royal government will not
permit to its shipping or its subjects, which may mix up in these conflicts by
taking letters of marque, sharing in privateering enterprises, carrying mer-
chandise contraband of war, or forwarding despatches, to have the benefit of
its protection against any losses which may befall them through such
transactions.

The equipment of privateers in the ports of this country is forbidden by
the laws of the land, as is known to the mercantile community.
Mr. Seward to Baron Gerolt.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 16, 1861.

The undersigned, Secretary of State of the United States, has the honor of acknowledging the receipt of a copy of a letter of instruction, under the date of the 18th of June, from Baron Schleinitz, the minister of foreign affairs of his Majesty the King of Prussia, to Baron Gerolt, his Majesty's envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the United States, which Baron Gerolt has submitted for perusal to the undersigned.

Baron Gerolt, in pursuance of this instruction, has referred to doubts said to prevail in Europe about the treatment to which neutral shipping may be subjected during the continuance of the internal disturbance now existing in the United States, and has requested from the undersigned an explanation of the views of this government thereupon.

Baron Schleinitz, in this communication, has remarked that it would certainly be most desirable for Prussia that this government should embrace this occasion to announce its adhesion to the celebrated declaration of Paris. But that if this could not be attained, then, for the present, the government of Prussia would urge that an exposition might be made to be obligatory during the present intestine disturbances in the United States, in regard to the application generally of the second and third principles of the Paris declaration to neutral shipping.

The second principle of the Paris declaration is, that the neutral flag covers the enemy's goods, not contraband of war.

The third principle is, that the goods, not contraband of war, of a neutral found on board an enemy's vessel are exempt from confiscation.

The undersigned has the pleasure of informing Baron Gerolt, by authority of the President of the United States, that the government cheerfully declares its assent to these principles in the present case, and to continue until the insurrection which now unhappily exists in the United States shall have come to an end, and they will be fully observed by this government in its relations with Prussia.

But the undersigned would be doing injustice to this government if he should omit to add, by way of explanation, that so long ago as the 24th of April last he transmitted ample instructions and powers to Mr. Judd, the then newly appointed Minister of the United States to Berlin, authorizing him to enter into a treaty (subject to the consent of the Senate of the United States) with the kingdom of Prussia for the adhesion of this government to the declaration of the congress at Paris. Similar instructions and powers were given to all the ministers appointed to conduct diplomatic intercourse with all existing maritime powers. This government in these instructions declared its continued desire and preference for the amendment of the Paris declaration proposed by this government in 1856, to the effect that the private or individual property of non-combatants, whether belonging to belligerent States or not, should be exempted from confiscation in maritime war. But recurring to the previous failure to secure the adoption of that amendment, this government instructed its ministers, if they should find it necessary, to waive it for the present, and to negotiate our adhesion to the declaration pure and simple.

The delay of Mr. Judd in his departure for Berlin is probably the cause why this proposition was not made by him to the Prussian government previous to the date of the instruction given by Baron Schleinitz to Baron Gerolt, which formed the occasion of the present note.
This government having thus practically anticipated the wishes of the Prussian government, the undersigned has, of course, been the more at liberty to accede to those wishes in the more limited extent in which they are expressed by Baron Schleinitz.

The undersigned at the same time holds himself none the less bound to proceed with a view to a more ample and more formal establishment of the benign principles of maritime war in regard to neutral commerce as indicated in the instructions given to Mr. Judd.

Of course the undersigned will be understood as not qualifying or modifying by this communication the right of the United States to close any of the national ports which have already fallen or which may fall into the hands of the insurgents, either directly or in the lenient and equitable form of the blockade which is now in full force.

The undersigned cannot close this communication without expressing to Baron Gerolt the great satisfaction with which this government has learned, through the communication now acknowledged, that his Majesty the King of Prussia faithfully adheres to the existing treaties between the two countries, and fulfills, without question or reservation, all their obligations. This announcement is accompanied by assurances of good feeling and good will that will not fail, under the peculiar circumstances of the times, to make a deep and lasting impression on the government and the people of the United States, and to perpetuate the friendship that for near a century has existed between the two countries to the great advantage and lasting honor of both.

Baron Gerolt may be assured that the government and the people of the United States have deliberately and carefully surveyed the unhappy disturbance of their social condition which has caused so much anxiety to all friendly commercial nations, and have adopted the necessary means for its speedy and complete removal, so that they expect to be able to prosecute their accustomed career of enterprise, and, while fulfilling all the national obligations, to cooperate with enlightened nations engaged, like Prussia, in enlarging and increasing the sway of commerce, and in promoting and advancing the high interests of civilization and humanity.

The undersigned offers to Baron Gerolt renewed assurances of his high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Baron Fr. Gerolt, &c., &c., &c.,
Washington.

Baron Gerolt to Mr. Seward.
[Translation.]

LEGATION OF PRUSIA,
Washington, July 17, 1861.

The undersigned, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of his Majesty the King of Prussia, has had the honor to receive the note of the honorable Mr. Seward, Secretary of the United States, in reply to the instructions which Baron de Schleinitz, minister of foreign affairs at Berlin, transmitted to the undersigned to be communicated to the honorable Secretary of State of the United States.
The undersigned cannot but felicitate himself on the declaration made in this note in favor of the treatment of neutrals pending the duration of intestine disturbances in the United States, as well as on the sentiments of friendship and good understanding expressed in the note of the honorable W. H. Seward towards the government of his Majesty, to which the undersigned will hasten to communicate these demonstrations of the government of the United States.

The undersigned seizes this occasion to renew to the honorable W. H. Seward the protestations of his most distinguished consideration.

FR. VON GEROLT.

HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State of the United States, Washington.

Mr. Judd to Mr. Seward.

[Extracts.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Berlin, July 2, 1861.

Sr: I arrived in Berlin on Thursday, the twenty-seventh ultimo, and was cordially welcomed by my predecessor, Mr. Wright, whose attentions and civilities, together with the information imparted to me in connexion with the mission, have tended very much to make my entry into Berlin and induction into office agreeable and pleasant.

Mr. Wright's position here and his influence, as the representative of our government, with the authorities, has been alike creditable and honorable to himself and useful to the citizens of the United States.

His firm straightforward Americanism has won the respect of, and exerted a decided influence upon, the ruling powers of this kingdom.

On the 28th of June Mr. Wright applied to his excellency Baron Schleinitz, minister of foreign affairs, for an interview, for the purpose of presenting his open letter of recall, and affording me the opportunity of presenting the copy of my letter of credence, and requesting my presentation to his Majesty the King.

The baron named the next day, at three o'clock p.m.; and, in accordance with the appointment, Mr. Wright and myself called upon the minister and presented our respective letters. In reply to my request for an audience, the baron stated that the King was at Potsdam; that he would notify him of our wishes, and advise of His Majesty's pleasure upon the subject.

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On Monday, the first of July, a note from the minister advised me that the King would receive me in private audience at his palace in Berlin at half past four p.m. of that day.

Mr. Wright and myself attended, in pursuance of the summons, and were presented to his Majesty by Baron Schleinitz.

Mr. Wright presented his letter of recall, and addressed his Majesty some remarks appropriate to the occasion, of which his despatch of to-day will contain an account.

I then presented my letter of credence, and stated to his Majesty that I was instructed by the President to convey to him the President's wishes for his health and happiness, and for the prosperity of his kingdom. That our government desired that the friendly relations so long existing between the two governments might continue and increase with the growing prosperity
of the two nations. That for myself, personally, I hoped that my residence near his Majesty's government might be useful to the citizens of my country, and acceptable to his Majesty. That I should endeavor in my official action to promote and increase the harmony, good will, and friendly feelings that had so long existed between the two nations, and that I presented my own best wishes for the health and happiness of his Majesty.

The King, in reply, expressed his warm feelings towards Mr. Wright, and stated that he regretted the troubles in our country; that he hoped soon to see them ended, and the integrity and majesty of our government and law maintained, and order triumph.

He thanked Mr. Wright for his allusion to the past friendly relations, and the manner in which he had promoted the same, and assured us that he was happy to hear through me the assurance of the continuance of the same.

The day following my presentation was occupied by me in establishing my relations with the ministers of state and the several diplomatic functionaries residing at this court.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

N. B. JUDD.

Hon. William H. Seward,
Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Judd to Mr. Seward.

[Extract.]

No. 4.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Berlin, July 24, 1861.

Sir: On the 9th of July instant, in pursuance of the special instructions contained in despatch No. 4, from the Department of State to this legation, under date of April 24, 1861, to seek an early opportunity to ascertain whether the government of Prussia is disposed to enter into negotiations for the accession of the government of the United States to the articles of the declaration of the congress assembled at Paris, April 16, 1856, on the question of privateering and maritime war, I had an interview with Baron von Schleinitz, minister of foreign affairs of his Majesty the King of Prussia. In communicating to the baron my instructions on that subject, and informing him of the disposition of the government of the United States to bring the negotiation on the basis of the Paris declaration to a speedy and satisfactory conclusion, I, at the same time, expressed to him how eminently desirable for the good of all nations the President deems that the property and effects, not contraband of war, of private individuals, although citizens of belligerent States, should be exempt from seizure and confiscation by national vessels in time of maritime war. The baron, in response, assured me that his Majesty's government desired to adopt the most liberal policy on that subject.

I then alluded to his instructions to Baron Von Gerolt, the Prussian minister in Washington, as published in the official journal, the "Staats Arbeiter,
and inquired if it was desired to transfer the negotiations to Washington. He replied in the negative, adding that the purpose and intent of the document chiefly was to give utterance to, and make manifest the good will of, his Majesty's government towards that of the United States, and to furnish a full and free communication and exchange of views between the two governments.

In reply to his inquiry, whether the President of the United States, through me, was prepared to submit propositions for a convention, I informed him that I had special powers to negotiate a treaty based upon the Paris declaration, and that a memorandum for that purpose had been prepared by the Department of State for my guidance. To my inquiry, whether the production of the evidence of my special authority was desired at this time, he replied negatively, but asked to be informed whether the treaty was intended to be a joint one with all the parties to the Paris conference, or a separate convention with each one of the parties. I responded that my instructions directed me to negotiate with the Prussian government only. He then requested that the propositions of the government of the United States be submitted in writing, promising, in that event, an early consideration of the same. Accordingly, on the 11th day of July instant, I addressed a communication to Baron Von Schleinitz, minister of foreign affairs, together with a copy of the memorandum for a convention upon the subject of belligerents and neutrals in time of war between the United States of America and his Majesty the King of Prussia, as furnished me by the Department of State, in connexion with its despatch No. 4, under date of April 24, 1861. A copy of my communication accompanies this despatch, marked Exhibit No. 1. No reply has yet been received from Baron Von Schleinitz to that communication.

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I have the honor to be, respectfully, your obedient servant.

N. B. JUDD.

Hon. W. H. SEWARD,

Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

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Exhibit No. 1.

Legation of the United States,

Berlin, July 11, 1861.

Monsieur le Baron: The undersigned, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary, has the honor herewith to present the memoranda referred to in our conversation of yesterday, it being simply a statement of the articles of the declaration adopted by the congress assembled at Paris, April 16, 1866.

While the President has instructed the undersigned to present and assent to a convention in terms substantially that of the congress at Paris, the President, nevertheless, desires the undersigned to submit to the government of his Majesty the King of Prussia how just and eminently desirable for the good of all nations he considers it that the property and effects of private individuals, not contraband of war, should be exempt from seizure and confiscation by national vessels in time of maritime war, although belonging to the citizens and subjects of the belligerent States; and in view of this fact, the undersigned begs leave to state to your excellency that he feels authorized and prepared to so modify the propositions he has the honor herewith to submit as to embrace the principle above stated, if it should
meet the views and be deemed desirable by the government of his Majesty
the King of Prussia.

The undersigned avails himself of this opportunity to assure your excel-

cency of his high and distinguished consideration.  

His Excellency Baron Von Schleinitz,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Judd.

No. 7.]  

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, July 26, 1861.

SIR: Mr. Wright's despatch, No. 177, dated June 22, was duly received.
Baron Gerolt has handed to me a copy of the instruction from his gov-
ernment, to which Mr. Wright refers. I have acknowledged the tenor of
that paper as not unacceptable, but I agree with Mr. Wright in thinking it
desirable that the strongest possible expressions be obtained from Prussia
for their moral effect.

Our army on the Potomac encountered a reverse on the 21st, which, for
the moment, produced a shock; but the evil effects of the disaster have
already passed away, while a more vigorous and determined resolution exists
now than ever to strengthen and preserve the Union.

We have put all the candidates recommended to us by Baron Schleinitz
into military employment.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

NORMAN B. JUDD, Esq., &c., &c., &c., Berlin.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Judd.

[Extract.]

No. 12.]  

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, August 12, 1861.

SIR: Your despatch of July 24, No. 3, has been received. Your conduct
in relation to the subject of negotiations for a convention with the govern-
ment of Prussia on the subject of the rights of neutrals in maritime war, as
referred to in that paper, is approved.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

NORMAN B. JUDD, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

Ex. Doc. 1—4
Mr. Judd to Mr. Seward.

[Extract.]

No. 6.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Berlin, August 27, 1861.

Sir: * * * * * * * * * * * *

Since my written communication to Baron Von Schleinitz on the subject of the maritime treaty, a copy of which was sent to the State Department in my despatch No. 4, I have not heard from this government directly upon the subject; but Baron Von Mohrenheim, of the Russian legation, informs me that, in conversation with Baron Von Schleinitz, the latter expressed the opinion that the object sought by the United States could be attained by a simple adhesion on its part to the articles of the Paris treaty, and that there was no necessity for a formal and separate treaty. I also learned from Baron Von Mohrenheim that the Russian government inclined to the same opinion. My conversations with the members of the diplomatic corps here have convinced me that they are not only thoroughly advised of the views and action of their own governments in this matter, but that every step taken by any government interested is promptly communicated, so that each representative is fully advised of the condition of the question with all the governments, and that there is concerted action, with England at the head.

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I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. B. JUDD.

Hon. W. H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

Mr. Judd to Mr. Seward.

[Extract.]

No. 10.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Berlin, October 10, 1861.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch (No. 14) bearing date September 21, 1861. Since my communication to the foreign office here in relation to the maritime treaty, a copy of which accompanied despatch No. 4, from this legation, I have no word or note from the Prussian government on the subject.

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I have the honor to be, respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. B. JUDD.

Hon. W. H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Judd.

No. 16.]  

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, October 21, 1861.  

SIR: Your despatch of September 24 (No. 8) has been received. It treats of many matters interesting, though not of chief importance. Your proceedings in regard to them are approved. Disunion, by surprise and impetuous passion, took the first successes, and profited by them to make public opinion in Europe. Union comes forward more slowly, but with greater and more enduring vigor. This nation, like every other, in the present as in all other cases, stands by its own strength. Other powers will respect it so long as it exhibits its ability to defend and save itself. More, perhaps, ought not to be wished; certainly it could not be reasonably expected.

I am, &c.,  

N. B Judd, Esq.,  
&c., &c., &c., Berlin.  

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.