

January 25, 1917.—Last night at Ruddocks'—Villalobar was there and the de Beughems and de Sinçay. Villalobar was telling me of a long talk he had had with von der Lancken, with whom, by the way, he grows increasingly familiar. Von der Lancken has been to Berlin, and, to his disappointment, found the terrorists apparently gaining in strength. Von der Lancken said that at Berlin, in discussing the eviction of the diplomatic corps from Bucharest, they had said: "We don't want another such condition as in Bel-

gium." There can be no question that merely by remaining here we have prevented many horrors and much frightfulness. Our mere presence has imposed on them the unwelcome restraints of civilized opinion. Villalobar delighted over von der Lancken's admission....

The President's message to the Senate¹ is published in a mutilated French translation by *La Belgique* today, but there is enough to realize that it is an historic state document setting forth the new Americanism. And he speaks for the voiceless peoples everywhere; he forces Ministers to cease whispering their dark plots in the shadows, and to come out in public—and that, in truth, is a great advance for democracy.

¹ Wilson presented his own views of a fair peace to the Senate on January 22, 1917—a "peace without victory," "a peace between equals." Both sides in Europe received this speech scornfully; Whitlock took a saner view.