

February 23, 1917.—Gregory in this afternoon, to talk things over. I had sent Villalobar a copy this morning of the Department's dispatch of February 15, ordering the immediate withdrawal of the C.R.B. if all our privileges weren't restored, with a translation in French that I had made. Went to see Villalobar at three. Surprised to see *his* flag down. Von der Lancken and a lot of German generals and Spanish ditto had been there to luncheon—a Spanish military committee visiting the front. Villalobar had shown von der Lancken the dispatch. Von der Lancken had gulped hard, but Villalobar thought he would worry it down before morning. Villalobar had told him that he had made a mistake about the flag. Von der Lancken said he had never asked me to take it down,

that he had only thought that since so many troops were in town, it would be better, and so on. Had no objection to my putting it up. . . . I decided to go see von der Lancken tomorrow morning.

Went to see Gregory; he wasn't at the C.R.B. He goes to Holland probably tomorrow. Told him, when he was in this afternoon early, that I would not go—too many reporters out there, too much would be made of it. Dictated dispatch for him to send out by courier, saying that unless Germany gives me full diplomatic privilege I'd go at once. I'll tell von der Lancken that tomorrow.