

March 2, 1917.—Gregory read a telegram from Kellogg who is in Rotterdam, and comes in Saturday to arrange ships. There is enough food now in Belgium to last until May. There are 85,000 tons in England belonging to the C.R.B., if the Germans will give safe conduct for the ships. Villalobar said they would; that von der Lancken said to assemble them all in Falmouth harbour and they could all come out at once. "And be blown up neatly all at once, by your submarines," I remarked, "as were the six Dutch ships." The C.R.B. has 100,000 tons on the sea, and has just bought 100,000 tons more at New York, all of which would suffice, were it here, until September. Gregory encouraged, and the Germans all feeling better. Gregory announced that in the event of war all the Americans would leave. He suggested that a reserve force be created at once. Villalobar approved and spoke of Loudon's letter; Van Vollenhoven made offer on behalf of Dutch Government. Villalobar said he expected to have only half a dozen Spaniards, the others Dutch. Gregory approved, agreed to wait until Kellogg came. Meeting appointed *chez moi* for eleven o'clock Sunday.

After meeting, Villalobar said he had had conversation with von der Lancken, who promised to improve my position (all of which is rather galling), and said that there was no question that C.R.B. men could leave freely. Villalobar asked him to put it in writing, and he said he would ask permission from Berlin. Villalobar told him that if anything were done to the C.R.B. men, he would withdraw.