

The United States Embassy added that they did not believe that this telegram was a reply to the message which had been transmitted to Berlin.

On enquiry at the United States Embassy shortly before midnight it was ascertained that no further communication had been received from Berlin.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has therefore no information as to the treatment accorded to British merchant ships and their cargoes in German ports, and has accordingly addressed the undermentioned notification to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury and to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

*Foreign Office, S.W.,*

*Midnight, August 7th, 1914.*

MY LORDS,

I have the honour to state that no information has reached me that the treatment accorded to British merchant ships and their cargoes which were in German ports at the date of the outbreak of hostilities or which subsequently entered them is not less favourable than that accorded to enemy merchant ships by Articles III. to VIII. of the Order in Council issued on the 4th day of August, 1914, with reference to enemy ships being in British ports at the outbreak of hostilities or subsequently entering them. Articles III. to VIII. of the said Order in Council will therefore not come into operation.

I have the honour to be,

My Lords,

Your Lordships' most obedient humble servant,

E. GREY.