

Cuba Enters the War

7 April 1917

A day after the United States entered the war, Cuba declared war on Germany. Below is the Cuban formal declaration of war on Germany, followed by President Mario Menocal's statement on the rationale behind the country's entrance into war.

Cuban Declaration of War, 7 April 1917

Article I

Resolved, that from today a state of war is formally declared between the Republic of Cuba and the Imperial Government of Germany, and the President of the Republic is authorized and directed by this resolution to employ all the forces of the nation and the resources of our Government to make war against the Imperial German Government with the object of maintaining our rights, guarding our territory and providing for our security, prevent any acts which may be attempted against us, and defend the navigation of the seas, the liberty of commerce, and the rights of neutrals and international justice.

Article II

The President of the Republic is hereby authorized to use all the land and naval forces in the form he may deem necessary, using existing forces, reorganizing them or creating new ones, and to dispose of the economic forces of the nation in any way he may deem necessary.

Article III

The President will give account to Congress of the measures adopted in fulfilment of this law, which will be in operation from the moment of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Source: <http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/cubandeclaration.htm>

Mario Menocal's Statement on Cuba's Decision to Enter the War

Cuba cannot remain neutral in this supreme conflict, because the declaration of neutrality would oblige her to treat all belligerents equally, refusing them with equal rigour any access to her ports and imposing on them the same restrictions and prohibitions, which would be in the present case contrary to public sentiment, to the essence of the pacts and moral obligations, moral rather than legal, which bind us to the United States; and would result, lastly, because of our geographical location, in being the cause of innumerable conflicts, the consequences of which it is easy to predict for a friendly and allied nation, and which would prove an inexcusable weakness and condescension for the attitude of implacable aggression unconditionally proclaimed by the Imperial German Government against the rights of all neutral peoples and against the principles of humanity and justice, which constitute the highest note of modern civilisation.

Source: http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/war_menocal.htm