

The Zimmerman Telegram, *19 January, 1917*

In January 1917, the British deciphered a telegram from the German foreign minister to the German minister to Mexico offering Mexico US territory should the country join their cause. Near the end of February, with growing anti-German sentiment in the United States, Britain presented the telegram, known as the Zimmerman telegram after its author Arthur Zimmerman, to the United States. The United States Declared War on Germany approximately six weeks later.

To the German Minister to Mexico
Berlin, January 19, 1917

On the first of February we intend to begin submarine warfare unrestricted. In spite of this, it is our intention to endeavour to keep neutral the United States of America.

If this attempt is not successful, we propose an alliance on the following basis with Mexico: That we shall make war together and together make peace. We shall give general financial support, and it is understood that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona. The details are left to you for settlement...

You are instructed to inform the President of Mexico of the above in the greatest confidence as soon as it is certain that there will be an outbreak of war with the United States and suggest that the President of Mexico, on his own initiative, should communicate with Japan suggesting adherence at once to this plan; at the same time, offer to mediate between Germany and Japan.

Please call to the attention of the President of Mexico that the employment of ruthless submarine warfare now promises to compel England to make peace in a few months.

Zimmermann
(Secretary of State)

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