

Washington, April 21.—The North Atlantic squadron has sailed from Key West for Havana.

The squadron will blockade Havana immediately.

There is good reason to believe that both the flying squadron and the Key West squadron will blockade Cuba.

The flying squadron also has orders to sail. The fleet will depend on fast cruisers to keep posted on the enemy's movements.

Troops will co-operate with the navy as soon as they can be concentrated. Ten days, it is expected, will be necessary to concentrate the troops at Key West.

As soon as Congress passes the army bill the President will call for 100,000.

Eighty thousand will aid the regulars in Cuban operations, and 20,000 men will man seacoast artillery.

Washington, April 21.—The cabinet meeting this afternoon discussed a number of questions, all of which involve almost immediate hostilities.

The question of a formal declaration of war was considered, but it is understood that it is unlikely that any formal declaration will be made at once.

An intimation is given that an important naval movement might soon be expected.

Minister Woodford's cablegram says he has received his passports, and that diplomatic relations are at an end.

Gen. Woodford said he was given his passports before he could present the United States ultimatum. Upon receipt of this news the President conferred with senatorial leaders in mapping out a policy for the United States, in view of the ending of diplomatic relations.

The President, senators say, has not indicated that a declaration of war is necessary, and the senators advised him against one.

The senators advised a manifesto to the powers that a state of war exists.

Madrid, April 21, 2 p. m.—Spain's action today is considered here as a virtual declaration of war, and hostilities may begin immediately.

3:20 p. m.—A semi-official note just issued says the Spanish government considers that the ultimatum of the United States constitutes a declaration of war.

The semi-official note adds that the Spanish fleet is already on its way to meet the fleet of the United States.

A semi-official note issued this afternoon says the Spanish government having received the ultimatum of the President of the United States, considers that the document constitutes a declaration of war against Spain, and that the proper form to be adopted is not to make any further reply, but to wait the expiration of time mentioned in the ultimatum before opening hostilities.

In the meantime the Spanish authorities have placed their possessions in a state of defense and their fleet is already on its way to meet that of the United States.

5:30 p. m.—Gen. Woodford has left Madrid. There is a great demonstration at the station.

Washington, April 21.—Dispatches received at the White House up to noon show that the Spanish fleet had not moved from Cape Verde Islands.

Washington, April 20.—Diplomatic relations between the United States and Spain are at an end. It is expected that from now on, events will move

with amazing rapidity up to the climax of actual war. Assistant Secretary of State Day early today received a cablegram from Minister Woodford at Madrid, stating that he had been handed his passports and had been notified that official relations between the United States and Spain were ended.

His cablegram said that he had been given the passports before he had an opportunity to present the ultimatum transmitted to him for submission to the Spanish government, the delivery of the ultimatum to Minister Polo having been accepted by the Spanish government as a formal announcement on our part.

Judge Day at once hurried to the White House, where he found President McKinley about to enter a carriage to take Mrs. McKinley to the railroad station, where he intended to see her off on a short trip to New York. The news that diplomatic relations between the United States and Spain were formally at an end was so important that the President bade a hasty goodbye to his wife on the White House portico, and repaired immediately to the upstairs part of the house, where he and Judge Day held a conference, the result of which was the dispatch of Secretary Porter to the Capitol to communicate the news to the Senate committee on foreign relations, and also to leading members of the House. It is presumed that this was done in order to facilitate any action deemed necessary by Congress.

By a hasty summons Senator Davis of Minnesota, chairman of the Senate committee on foreign relations, Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, a member of the committee, Senator Allison of Iowa, a leader in that body, and others, joined Assistant Secretary Day and the President shortly after 10 o'clock in a conference whose purpose was to map out the immediate policy of the United States.

The conference broke up shortly after half past 10 o'clock, Judge Day, accompanied by Senator Lodge, going over to the state department. The secretary would say nothing regarding the conference, further than to authorize the statement that a public announcement would be made later in the day.

Chairman Davis of the Senate foreign relations committee was laconic and not explicit, simply remarking:

"We've taken the trick."

Asked specifically regarding the handing of his passports to Minister Woodford he said that the delivery of the ultimatum to the Spanish legation here has served all purposes.

Senator Cullom of Illinois of the foreign relations committee, was at this conference also and at 11 o'clock on leaving the White House said that the handing of the passports to Minister Woodford constituted the Spanish reply and ended all peaceful relations. While an effort might be made in Congress to make a formal declaration of war there was no occasion for it, and in his opinion there probably would be none.

He added: "There is enough of a state of war now existing."

Everything now, he suggested, would go ahead without preliminary action of a declaration of war by Congress. The next step, he said would be to call out the troops.

The President did not indicate to the senators and members of the House with whom he talked today that he considered a declaration of war necessary and it is said that he has been advised by some of those on whose advice he most relies that no declaration is necessary. Some of the leading senators consider that the congressional resolutions and the ultimatum sent to Spain are all that is necessary to give notice to the world that a state of war exists, while others

hold that a manifesto to the powers advising them of the condition of affairs might be well.

The best information is that the President is disposed to regard this advice and the probabilities now are that he will not ask Congress to make a formal declaration.

Berlin, April 21.—The Vossische Zeitung, though acknowledging the "tragic guilt of Spain," maintains that the United States is morally still culpable by "nourishing the rebels for years and by finally employing the Maine disaster as a more pretext," and adopting violent measures. It says:

"All this is in the interest and under the influence of a small but powerful group of speculators, with sugar as their basis of policy. Their interests are dictated by their purses. This is all the more odious because it wears the transparent mantle of humanity, devotion to liberty and other high ideals."

"America's policy in Cuba, has been characterized by violence and hypocrisy and has not a single ennobling feature."

The National Zeitung has an article in a similar strain.

London, April 20.—The rush of applicants for enlistment in the army or navy was continued today. Between forty and fifty English and Irish sailors or soldiers or would-be soldiers or sailors, applied for enlistment at the United States consular this morning.

Several British officers consulted with Col. Alfred E. Bates, the United States military attaché, today, as to whether they could secure command in the United States army. One Woolwich artillery lieutenant declared his intention to apply for six months leave without giving any reason for so doing, and to enlist as a private in the United States army if he is unable to do better, in order to study artillery in action.

Numbers of former soldiers and volunteers have applied to marshal Halsted, the United States consul at Birmingham for enlistment in the United States army. Mr. Halsted explained to them that the foreign enlistment act prevented the acceptance of their offers. Many engineers have left Birmingham to serve in both the United States and the Spanish navies.

Paris, April 21.—The Republique Francaise says:

"Since Europe is powerless to re-establish peace, to protect the weak against the strong and to obtain respect for the best established rules of international law, let it at least bow down before the last knights we are to see, perhaps, in this world, where money is henceforth to reign."

The Temps says: "With the best will in the world it is not clear how Spain could preserve an atom of respect were she to consent to the imperious summons of a foreign government to evacuate Cuba. Whatever may be our verdict as to the incapacity of Spain to govern Cuba, we must admit that since the armistice, the United States has done its best to force Spain to fight."

Boston, April 21.—Governor Wolcott to raise the Massachusetts militia to a war footing at once.

Washington, April 21.—A war revenue bill will be reported to full committee on ways and means Saturday.

Port au Prince, Haiti, April 21.—A Spanish warship was sighted yesterday to the southward of Joremie.

Washington, April 21.—Mr. Hull has called up in the House the joint resolution to prohibit the exportation of coal.

Washington, April 21.—It is believed here that Great Britain and other nations will insist that Spain prohibit privateering.

New York, April 2.—The office of the Spanish consul general in this city is closed, and affairs were formally turned over to the French consul general today.