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LONDON GRID FOR LEARNING

Austria declares war on Serbia
29/7/1914

Publication: Guardian 1821-2000; Date: Jul 29, 1914; Section: None; Page: 8

Peace or War.

Austria has declared war on Servia. It was expected, and the invasion of Servia is just as likely to improve as to worsen the relations between the Great Powers. If, as they say, Austria is chiefly anxious to humiliate Servia publicly, and seeks no territory, the occupation of the capital ought to satisfy her, and fortunately Belgrade lies just over the River Danube, and its occupation ought not to give much trouble. There is no obvious reason why Austria should not be content with that. It should heal her injured pride, and at Belgrade she is in just as good a position to collect the outstanding fraction of her demands from Servia as she would be in the centre of Servia on the morrow of a great victory. Let her remember the great armies that she had to employ for the conquest of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and content herself with the symbolic triumph of the occupation of the capital. If she grasps at more she will probably retain less. She would not be allowed, nor does she wish, to annex any part of Servia, and a prolonged campaign in the country would only inflame the hatred of the Serbs without hurting the Government more than the occupation of the capital would do. If Austria takes this view—and, as things are, it seems the most rational—the declaration of war may conceivably make the task of the peacemakers

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General Putnik, the Chief of the General Staff of the Servian Army,

General von Haetzendorf, Chief of the Austrian General Staff.

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