

And we herein declare that it is Our intention to safeguard all the many subjects of the King of Spain who are in Our Kingdoms and their property if they act honourably towards Us, in spite of the ill-treatment that many of Our subjects have received in the Kingdom of Spain. Given in Our Court of St James, 27th December 1718, in the fifth year of Our reign.'

(Belando, *Historia civil de España . . .*, Part Four, pp. 191–3.)

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*The Coalition becomes threatening. Felipe V decides to dispense with his policies of aggression and with their prime advocate, Alberoni*

1720

'We hereby Decree that

. . . Being ever disposed to obtain the benefits of international peace for Our subjects, and striving to this end to realise honourable and advantageous Treaties which shall be of lasting validity; and wishing, with this aim in view, to remove all obstacles which might cause the slightest delay to the realisation of an objective upon which the common weal depends to such a great extent, We have for this and other reasons of equal moment deemed it appropriate to remove Cardinal Alberoni from the control of the affairs of state which he has held hitherto, and at the same time to order him, as We herein do, by Our Royal Command, to absent himself from Madrid within eight days and from the Realm within three weeks, and to forbid him ever again to meddle in any affairs of state whatsoever, or to appear at Court or in any other place where We, our Queen or any other Prince of Our Household might be present.'

(Belando, *Historia civil de España . . .*, Part Four, p. 244.)