MEMORANDUM.

Berger-Waldenegg told me last Wednesday that they had had a reply from Germany on the non-interference pact and that it was not as unsatisfactory as they had believed. He said Germany posed a number of questions which did not seem as difficult as what they had anticipated. These questions are obviously the same which the Germans posed in Rome and Paris and which have been reported in the press. He said he did not know whether they really indicate a favorable attitude or whether they were only stalling before the London conversations. He was inclined to the latter opinion for the information they had was that Germany would use every effort to keep out of the pacts.

The German attitude now is very similar to that of the Soviets before recognition. The Soviets refused to talk about recognition with conditions, leaving the impression that if recognition came they would be reasonable with respect to debts etc. We finally were convinced of their good faith and gave recognition. The last break down in the negotiations leaves the impression that the Soviets never intended to keep any of the promises they had made. The same situation applies to Germany today. They want recognition of equality and armaments without conditions, leaving the impression that they will be entirely reasonable. I think we have the same reason to believe they are no more in earnest than the Soviets were if not more so, for with respect to their promises in external fields the Soviets have a better record than the Nazi regime.

The letter of Lord Lothian to the TIMES in the February 1 issue, is an indication of how these German promises are seriously considered. The reply of Steed in the TIMES of February 2, to Lord Lothian, is one of the best documents one can read to maintain the proper perspective.

George S. Messersmith.