July 8, 1938

Honorable George Messersmith
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I am distressed to learn of the serious illness of your mother. I know from experience how hard it is to see a family disappear.

I did not send to the Secretary a copy of my Polish memorandum, as I thought it was too long to burden him. I should be very glad, however, if you would pass it on.

Here in New York I find my Jewish friends quite hostile to my ideas in connection with the Evian Conference. They believe it should be strictly limited to German and Austrian refugees. They may be right, but I fear that two things may happen by this restrictive approach:

1) It will not be possible to get the cooperation of the German government in releasing Jewish property;

2) The Poles will feel encouraged to manufacture political refugees in order to take advantage of international assistance.

This is certainly a difficult problem, and it is hard to see a way out.

I shall telephone your office when I arrive in Washington and will understand perfectly if you are not there.

Sincerely yours,

Raymond Leslie Buell

P.S. I have enclosed a memorandum. RMB:EF