My dear Messersmith,

I have had several charming messages transmitted to me from you and Marian by Pell and Armstrong, and I feel that the time has really come when I must endeavour to send you a line from both of us of warm thanks, since I cannot tell you how much we appreciate the thought of such a good friend.

It is extremely hard for me to realise that over two years have elapsed since we parted in Vienna. I well remember how my train from the Wolfgangsee got in exactly five minutes too late to be present at your send off, and I equally remember how much impressed everyone had been at the fact that Dr. von Schuschnigg had appeared at your departure. If my memory does not fail me it was a Sunday evening, the 15th July. As I look back on that date I wonder if it will find its proper place in European history, for I think now it meant a great deal more than we any of us may have realised at the time. I myself had not much further time for observation as I also was dragged away......
away some three months later, but my impression since from the books that I have read was that a certain interest in the proceedings in Vienna had disappeared, certainly in my own country, and throughout those last months of 1937. The refrain seemed to gather in force that after all was not Austria all Nazi? was it not only reasonable that an ambition should be satisfied? and with the satisfaction of that ambition that Europe would settle down to that rest of which it had been so much deprived in the preceding years.

The whole subsequent story you know as well as I do. - Within 18 months, the fall of Austria!! There was truth, my dear Messersmith, in the saying of the Austrian Emperor "Austria erit in orbe ultima". When peace comes to be made, which I am afraid is not yet, statesmen will do well to reflect on the implication of that dictum.

For the rest, all that I can remember is the magnificent assistance and help which Dorothy and I both received at your hands. Only three nights ago Dorothy reminded me of something that you had said to her on a critical occasion: "Would it not be as well to have a little war.....
war now rather than a big one in a few years time!'

However, enough of the past, for the present is, as you can imagine preoccupying all our attention and will do so for many long months to come. As ever, in this capital we are able to count upon the greatest possible sympathy on the part of the Representative of the United States here as well on that of all the members of the American Legation. It was something the other day to see the American fleet sail up the Tagus; it is still here, contributing its part - and by no means an unimportant one - in steadying affairs in at least one corner of this troubled continent.

We almost immediately made the acquaintance of your Admiral at a luncheon at the American Legation and have since played golf on one or two occasions with him and his officers. They are really a most magnificent collection of men, the Admiral, in particular, appearing to me of an intelligence quite out of the usual order.

If it interests you to have news of the family the last we have heard is that Rupert is in France with his regiment and likewise my younger boy. As regards
my elder, he is still working at the Foreign Office, but I think that he is leaving that occupation to join Rupert's regiment, to which he is attached, as soon as they call up his section. Vera is busy at her little cottage in the country digging potatoes and working at the telephone exchange.

Of course letters are difficult nowadays and we do not get much news but such as we do get is good.

My renewed thanks for your charming messages; we appreciate them since they reflect the support and collaboration of a friend, which I on my side have not forgotten.

Our very best regards to Marion,

Yours ever,

[Signature]

[Note: The handwriting is not clear enough to transcribe accurately.]

[Note: The handwritten text is not legible in the image.]