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My papers, which are composed very largely of copies of despatches and private letters which I wrote to high officers of the Department and to the President, are now for the most part in the house in Mexico City at 1285 Sierra Paracaima and in the house in Cuernavaca at 15 Calle Tetela, Tlaltenango. The papers, with the exception of the copies of the letters intended for the President, are packed in boxes. The carbon copies of the letters to the President, which are perhaps the most important of the papers which I have, are flimsies bound in seven or eight volumes which are now in the house in Mexico City. The papers are all unclassified and very difficult of access until they are classified.

During all the many years that I was in the Foreign Service from 1914 until the middle of 1947, I did not make any notes nor did I keep a diary. I wrote many letters to officers of the department to supplement my official despatches. Of the private letters I kept copies for the most part and they are among my papers. Of the official despatches I kept copies of only the most important ones. There was no specific rule of the Department preventing an officer of the Foreign Service from keeping copies of despatches as long as he did not make any use thereof, except for his own personal information and background. I was, however, very meticulous in the matter of keeping copies of such despatches and have not furnished at any time copies to anyone, but have kept them for my own personal use.

The task of placing these copies of letters and despatches in a situation so that they are easily accessible is a difficult one and is one of the problems which I have before me, as even if I endeavor to do any writing from memory it will be necessary to check from these copies of despatches and letters the notes which I prepare or to check with the copies of despatches which are on file with the Department of State. I doubt whether many copies of letters of a private character which I wrote to Mr. Hull or to Under Secretary Phillips or to Mr.
Moffett and to Mr. Dunn, who during the period 1933 to 1937 were at one time or another heads of the European Division, are in the files of the Department, as it is probable that the copies of these private letters are in the private files. I know that copies of my letters intended for President Roosevelt are among his private papers and must be now in the library at Hyde Park. Copies of letters addressed to Secretary Hull are probably in his personal files. It is however quite probable that copies of letters which I addressed to Secretary Hull and Mr. Phillips and to Mr. Dunn are in the files of the Department.

The most interesting of the papers in my possession are copies of despatches which I wrote from Berlin and Vienna during the period 1933 to 1937. There were however some quite important despatches on economic matters more particularly, which I wrote from Argentina and from Belgium. As I am now 71 years of age and have not done any writing of any kind for publication during the period that I was in the Foreign Service, I have from time to time been pressed to make a publication of the letters written during the period 1933 to 1937 from Berlin and Vienna, and have also been pressed to write about my work in Europe and in Latin America. It was I believe towards the middle of 1934 that President Roosevelt sent a message to me asking me to make a trip to Washington. I was rather nonplussed because usually when I was asked to make a trip, I knew what the purpose of the trip was. In this particular case I was simply asked to come to see the President without having any idea as to what he wished to see me about. On my arrival I called on Secretary Hull and told him the President had expressed this desire to see me and asked him if he had any idea what he wished to see me about. The Secretary said he had no idea, as there was nothing at that time on which there had not been full discussion and on which I was not fully informed. I called on the President and found him as usual in a very good mood and after some ten minutes of casual conversation more of a personal character, he said to me that he wished me to publish the letters which I had written at his request during the years that I was in Berlin and Vienna. He said that the situation was
such that we could look forward to the end of the war, when it would be necessary in order that mistakes were not made, that there be adequate and full background of what had brought about the war in which we were then engaged, so as to prevent a repetition of such a serious catastrophe. He said that the letters which I had written from Berlin and Vienna during the years '33 to '37 and some of the memoranda which I had prepared in the Department from the Spring of 1937 until 1940 on developments in Europe would be of extreme importance for the information of our public and for a guidance not only of our people but also for the orientation of some of the higher officers of the Department and of our government. The President said that he had had discussed with two publishers in New York the publication of these letters and that they were prepared to publish them, that it would not require very much work on my part for the preparation of the letters as they were in such shape that it would be advisable to publish them a good part of them. I told the President that it was in my opinion quite impossible to publish these letters, as he must know that there was still too much in them which would not be advantageous to publish, particularly during the period of the war, and perhaps for some time afterwards. I said besides that at his own request these letters which I had written Mr. Hull and others for his information during the period 1933 to 1937 were for the most part very long and rather detailed, and that to publish them would require several volumes and that it would be too bulky a publication. The President said that it would require very little editing to cut out some of the material which was not important.

I said to the President that in my opinion it would still be quite impossible to publish the letters and that while I appreciated his thought that these letters should be published as they would be useful for the forming of public opinion, that I still thought that it was too early to publish them. The President, in his characteristic way, threw up both hands and laughed and said, "George, I quite understand. Too many asterisks still". He said that regretfully he had to agree that it was too early to publish the letters.
Since that time I have read these letters from time to time, or at least some of them, and I still think it is too early to publish any of these letters, as it is possible that greater harm can be done through their publication than through their not being published. On the other hand, there is such a striking similarity in developments in the last years, that is since the end of the war, between events and those events which developed gradually from 1930 until 1940 that it might be useful for the orientation of scholars studying that period if these letters were made available. I have never had any interest and do not have any interest now in publishing these letters for any gainful purpose.

So far as my despatches are concerned and a few of these letters which were written at the request of President Roosevelt, excerpts have been published in a volume of the Department of State in the Foreign Relations series, particularly a volume called "War and Peace". A good many of the despatches which I wrote particularly from Berlin and Vienna have been used by various historical students in the United States and historians and have been the basis of comment in publications. Professor Langer of Harvard in his book published a few years ago makes frequent reference to some of these despatches. I have reference to Professor Langer's book, "The Challenge to Isolation, 1937 to 1940", which was published for the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. Professor Charles Tansill of the University of Georgetown has used these despatches to a certain extent probably a few of the letters in his book called "The Back Door to War" covering the period 1933 to 1941. Other books which have been written in the last years make frequent reference to these despatches and to the basic material contained therein, and I will prepare a separate memorandum covering some of these publications in connection with which my papers on file in the Department have been consulted.

One of my regrets is that during all these years that I was in the Foreign Service I did not keep any diary of any kind. The real reason I did not do so was because I was always so interested in what I was doing that my days were
very long and I did not have time to write a diary. I realize now that I should have done so, for while my memory remains practically completely unimpaired, I find that I do not have a very correct idea of chronology in some cases and I confuse the period in which particular conversations took place. Besides that, some of the most interesting details with regard to the conversations have escaped me, but reference to the despatches and letters will easily refresh my memory.

I am not placing any exaggerated value on my papers. They do have a certain value, because they cover a long period of service for the Department of State in many different parts of the world, in Europe and in Central America and in the West Indies. I have not kept many copies of despatches written during the period when I first entered the service in 1914 up to about 1920. The despatches cover more particularly the period from 1920 until 1937. These are in the archives of the Department and are readily available to anyone who has permission to use the confidential and non-confidential archives of the Department. The despatches which I wrote on economic subjects from Argentina and Belgium and Berlin are I believe of some interest from a historical point of view as showing the development of our interest in the economies of other parts of the world. The despatches which I wrote from Berlin and Vienna beginning in 1930 have the most value from the point of historical development and background. Certain despatches which I wrote from Argentina in 1928 and 1929 have a certain interest as showing our developing interest in the economic situations in the Argentine and in other countries of Latin America. Despatches which I wrote from the Embassy in Cuba are more interesting from an economic rather than from an historical or a political point of view. The most important despatches which I wrote from a political point of view are those which I wrote from Berlin and Vienna beginning 1930 and ending 1937 when I returned to the Department of State an Assistant Secretary of State in the first half of the latter year.
My friends in the Department particularly have from time to time observed
that I was too long in setting forth my points of view to the Department. I
would like to note in this connection that if my despatches were long and de­
tailed, it was not because I underestimated the intelligence of those who would
read them in the Department. I realized in making them so long I was risking
the possibility of their not being read by the most important officers of the
Department. On the other hand, I had to choose between what I considered was
a necessity of presenting every aspect of a problem or giving only a brief
statement which might not give the adequate basis on which decisions should
be made. Most of the things were those which involved certain decisions of
principle, and as these decisions had to be made in the last instance by men
in the Department and responsible officers of the Department, I felt that the
adequate information necessary to form a decision should be available, even
though it involved this long background. I still think that the procedure
which I followed was the wisest and soundest one, though at times it caused
some inconvenience and some protest from some of those who had to read these
despatches even though they were on a second and third level in the Department.
At least those who had to study these despatches were in a position to have
before them all the facts necessary to an intelligent understanding of all the
factors involved and therefore in a position to form their own conclusions and
to make their own observations to the responsible officers of the Department
to whom they had to report and who made these decisions. The despatches written
from Berlin and Vienna from 1930 to 1937 were detailed but for the most part
important and they reflected accurately the developments in Germany and Vienna
during those crucial years and many references are made in these despatches to
developments in Western and Central and South Eastern Europe which may have a
historical interest. In connection with my despatches I may say that it will
be found that in them, while I frequently express opinions, I usually made it
clear in the despatches when I was expressing a personal opinion and when I
was reporting facts. In reporting the facts I was always most meticulous. I felt that it was absolutely essential that in order to be a good reporter from the field for the Department of State and for the other departments of our government interested in developments abroad, it was imperative that before stating anything as a fact it was necessary to check in every possible way. For this reason all during my career as a Foreign Service Officer I endeavored to form as large an acquaintance with responsible people in every possible walk of life. I confined my associations and contacts not only to people in the government in various capacities from the highest possible down to those who had to handle the actual execution of principle and dealing with the actual problems. I also endeavored to form all kinds of associations with important people in industry, banking, commerce and economists who were supposed to be sound. I maintained as much as I could contacts with cultural circles, with writers, authors of all kinds, musicians, people connected with the theater and with music, with education, with the promotion of cultural relations and practically every aspect of the life of the people. I found this exceedingly useful for me because I was able to check and countercheck. I kept close contact with our newspaper people abroad and found among them many sincere, intelligent and patriotic Americans. To a certain extent I maintained contact with foreign newspaper men stationed in the capitals where I was in order to compare their own observations with those I got from our own nationals. In resume, I endeavored to make as wide a circle of contacts in every post at which I was stationed in order that I might be able to report factually. If I failed at any time to report factually it was not due to a very real effort to do so. So far as expressing personal opinions is concerned based on these facts, I endeavored in all my despatches to make it clear where I was stating facts and where I was expressing any conclusions which I personally reached on the basis of these facts or any interpretation which I gave thereto. I consider that this distinction in despatches is one of the most important things which a Foreign Service Officer
can make in his despatches to the Department.

So far as my personal letters are concerned, these were usually written at the request of the recipient rather than on my own initiative. Among these personal letters which I wrote the most important, as I have already said in this memorandum, are those which I addressed to various officers of the Department from 1930 to 1937. The most important of the personal letters are those which I wrote from the beginning of 1933 until the Spring of 1937, when I left Vienna. Very shortly after President Roosevelt took his oath as President I happened to be in Washington and the President asked me to come to see him. He asked me to write him frequently from Berlin and give him the best information which I could concerning developments, not only in Germany but in Central Europe, and so far as circumstances permitted, from Western Europe. The President said he knew that I had been taking a very active interest in developments in Europe in general over a period of years and that he wished to have my observations. When I asked him how often he wished me to write to him he said he left that to my discretion, but that I could write him at periods of a week and if I thought it necessary, to do so more frequently. I asked him in what detail he wished this information to come to him, and he said that he would leave that to my discretion also, but that he wished me to cover the situation as broadly as possible, as he knew that he could depend on my judgment. I told him that I appreciated very much his showing this confidence in me but that I was doubtful as to the length of the letters. I said that probably the letters might be too long and I would ask him to be good enough to let me know if the letters were too long. I asked him to whom I should address these letters and he said that it would be preferable if I addressed them directly to Mr. Hull or to the Officer in charge of the Western European Division in the Department, but that he would give instructions that these letters were to be made available to him. For the most part, therefore, the letters are addressed to Mr. Hull or to Under Secretary Phillips, or to Mr.
Pierpont Moffett or to Mr. James Dunn, or to other officers of the Department. I sent these letters in sufficient copies so that the original could be sent to the President, in the discretion of these officials, but it is my understanding that the President had given instructions that copies of all these personal letters were to be sent to him. On several occasions in 1934 and again in 1935 I asked the President if the letters which I was writing were too long. He said that he read all of them and he hoped that he was really getting all of them. He said that they were not too long and that I was not to shorten them. I was much surprised because I could not understand how the President, with all his obligations which were constantly increasing, could find the time to read these letters.

While there were many who were surprised at the breadth and depth of the President's knowledge with regard to the developments in all parts of the world, this was no surprise to many of us who knew intimately his ways of working. He had first of all the habit of receiving all kinds of people. He was one of the most accessible of our Presidents and was particularly accessible to people whom he knew had been in different parts of the world, had had intimate contacts with various people of importance in different fields of activity not only political, to he was accessible/foreigners, as well as to our own people. One of his favorite times for long and searching conversations was on Sunday mornings, when he would receive a few people in his work room on the second floor of the White House. On various occasions from 1937 to 1940 I accompanied people there whom the President had invited and whom he wished to talk to at length. I think there were a few visitors whom the President did not surprise and at times astound by the searching character of his questions and by the circumstances that the questions showed that he himself was already familiar with a good deal of the substance.

Due to the fact that the President was not able to move about except with help, he liked to retire early and he occupied what is known as the large Lincoln bedroom, in which the bed was really tremendous. He had the habit of
getting in bed, propping himself up with several pillows, putting on one sweater, perhaps two, or perhaps one of his other intimate secretaries brought in the papers which he wished to read. These he scattered all over the bed. He had a little rake which he used to pull these papers to him so that he could have easy access to them. From half past ten in the evening or eleven or at times eleven-thirty until one and after in the morning the President read all kinds of papers. When there was a paper concerning which he wished information he did not hesitate to call those who had the information to come to the White House and received them in his bedroom.

While there are many who say that the President monopolized these conversations and permitted his hearers to say very little, this is not I believe a correct statement of the fact. The President was interested in hearing what other people had to say. While I had no direct knowledge that the President was receiving such private letters from other chiefs of mission or from other persons in our service abroad, it is more than likely that the request which covering the situation in he made to me for letters about Central Europe and Western and South Eastern Europe had also been made to persons in whom he had confidence and whom he knew had the observation of seeing things close at hand. I do believe that the letters which I wrote from Berlin and Vienna were the ones in which he placed greatest dependence concerning developments in Central Europe. At other places in these memoranda and notes I will make reference to the extraordinary degree concerning which the President was informed concerning developing events in all parts of the world. I do not believe from my own personal observation and so far that that has any value, that we have not had any President who was more fully informed concerning developing events in all parts of the world, and particularly of course in Europe during the period 1933 to 1940, in which he was so intimately interested because he realized the force of these events upon events in our own country and the responsibilities which might come to us.

When I retired from the Foreign Service after completing my duties in
the Argentine towards the middle of 1947, it was my intention, on returning to Mexico to live, to begin to do something in the way of writing with regard to my experiences in Europe and in Latin America, in particular. I found, however, that the duties which I undertook shortly after retiring in connection with Mexlight, to which I will refer later in memoranda, made it quite impossible for me to do any writing. I found that the duties which I had undertaken were so full and of so onerous a character that they excluded any possibility of writing. I was so sincere in my desire to write that I had asked a former secretary of mine, Mrs. Helen Hall, who had been with me in Mexico and in Argentina, to come and live with us at our home at 414 Genova in Mexico City, so that she might be available at all times that I might be free to write. She was with us from the beginning of 1948 until the end of 1953. She lived with us in our home and it was very pleasant to have her there, but the only dictation which I was able to do was in connection with company letters. I dictated a great deal in the evenings and on Saturdays and Sundays. I had hoped that she would have time available during the time that she stayed with us to arrange papers, but the work which I gave her on company matters was so time consuming that she was not able to do anything on my papers whatever.

The net result of the foregoing is that my papers are unclassified, still packed away in boxes, and will require a great deal of time to put them into shape. My present thought is to employ someone who can classify these papers first according to years, without any reference to post or subject. After they have been classified by years I hope that I may be able to secure someone who will be able to separate them by subject and person within the years. After this has been done it will be possible for me to go through them by year and by subject and to eliminate and destroy those which do not seem to have any value. This should reduce the volume of the papers by at least one half.
After this work has been done I should be in a position to use the papers for ready reference in connection with any notes that I may make.

I have reached the pretty definite conclusion that I shall not do any writing for publication in the next few years. The best course that I think I can follow is to dictate notes as they occur to me without any reference to these papers whatever. These notes I shall dictate entirely from memory and without reference, as I have said, to the basic documents. There undoubtedly will be errors in these notes, for while my memory is relatively perfect, there may be errors in chronology and the notes may be incomplete, because my memory of certain events and certain conversations, while good, will undoubtedly not enable me to dictate these memoranda without leaving out details or perhaps important points which have escaped my memory.

It may be possible for me to do some publication of some kind, whether it has reference to Europe or to Latin America, before my death. Keeping in mind, however, that anything may happen, I have been in touch with my good friend, Dr. W. Owen Sypherd, formerly Professor of English at the University of Delaware and formerly president of the university and now retired. He has been in touch with the President of the university, Dr. Perkins, and they are both of the opinion that the University of Delaware would like to have my papers. I am therefore making a codicil to my will, or leaving instructions, that whatever papers and notes I may have, whether they were prepared for publication or just for record, shall be made available to the university. It is my hope that when they are made available to the university they will be sufficiently classified and sufficient of the material will have been eliminated so that what is delivered to the university will be in fairly accessible shape. I shall specify that the university can make such use of the papers as it desires, merely to be kept for reference purposes in the files of the university or to be used for students in their research work or for publication, as the university may see fit.
At present there is no organization, I believe, of personnel available in the university to make much use of these papers except use which may be made of them by students interested in history and in our foreign relations. It is my understanding, however, that serious consideration is being given to the establishment of a school of international relationships or a school of international affairs in the University of Delaware. It occurs to me that the University of Delaware is an unusually appropriate place for the establishment of such a school. It will require an endowment because the needs of the university from the public funds of the State of Delaware are such that it is probably not feasible for the state, through the Legislature, to make available the money necessary for the building and personnel necessary for a school of international relationships or affairs. There are, however, persons in Delaware of means who are interested not only in the university but in our foreign relationships. It is entirely possible, therefore, that there may be persons of the adequate means and the adequate understanding in the state who will make available to the university an endowment necessary for a school of international affairs. It is my very real hope that this will be done, because I believe that a quiet, small town like Newark, and the university atmosphere at the University of Delaware in general are propitious to the work of students in international relationships. The endowment would not have to be necessarily large but separate buildings should be provided for the school. There should be provision not only for the teaching personnel but also for research personnel which can handle papers which may be much more important than mine which may be made available to the university. The location of the University of Delaware at Newark so close to Washington is particularly appropriate because it would so possible for students in the school, as well as for research workers in the school and using the facilities of the school, to consult the archives of the Department of State in Washington. I will not go into any detail here as to the peculiar and particular advantages of having a school of international
relationships at a small university like Delaware which I hope will never have too many students, as I am one of those who believe that the smaller universities are the best place for serious study and research in problems such as those of foreign relations. While I do not place any exaggerated value, as I have already said, on these personal papers of mine, it does give me a feeling of satisfaction and ease to know the university is at least interested in having them for its archives, whether anything is done with them or not. It is my hope to dictate copious notes on various subjects based on the papers without any reference to the papers themselves during the course of the dictation. The notes can afterwards be checked by me with the basic documents or by someone else who may have the interest in going over the papers and the notes.