I am dictating this memorandum to myself with regard to the progress I have made on the notes so far. It is still not clear to me as to what form I may publish anything, if I do publish anything. I think that the letters that I wrote to the President, the Secretary of State, to Under Secretary Phillips and to Mr. Moffett and to Mr. Dunn and the rest should be published, but they are so bulky that I have reached the conclusion that they will need a good deal of editing. That is not a difficult job and is I believe a separate job. I am not thinking of doing anything on them at this moment, because in any event I think it is too early for them to be published.

The more I write of these notes in preparation of any writing I may do in the future with regard to my performance in the Foreign Service and my thoughts on things and events as they developed and on my work in the various countries where I was stationed and on the personalities with whom I had contact, etc., it is not clear to me whether these should be published in one volume with reference to Europe and one volume with reference to Latin America. It is also not clear to me as to how frank these volumes could be and as to whether I would wish to publish anything now. I am dictating the notes without any plans, so far as country is concerned or without any plan as to time is concerned. I dictate the memoranda from day to day as it occurs to me to dictate something on a particular subject. I am not trying to dictate them in any finished way or with any literary style. I think that probably this may be a mistake as it will make my task later in doing actual writing more difficult. I am not trying to check any dates and I am not trying to check back any facts with the documents. I cannot do this latter until I have the documents arranged, and that will take a year or so unless I find a very competent person who will be able to do the job. In any event, it is going to take time to arrange these papers. I am handicapped, as in the arranging of the papers a very large room will be needed as it will mean a lot of spreading out of papers for the time being, and we have no such room available either here or in additional Cuernavaca. I think that I may have to build an room on the house in Cuernavaca in
which to work, as we have so many guests there that it is difficult to work there. While the house is large, the rooms are all used for ourselves and our guests.

As I go along with the dictation of these notes, and I now have dictated perhaps a hundred hours or something like that, I come to the conclusion that the material is perhaps worth publishing. In my own mind, and I believe in everything that I have said about my own work, I have not placed any too great value on it.

I had the peculiar opportunity almost from the beginning of my career in the Foreign Service in 1914 to work in interesting places. I was always somewhere that there was something to be done, either in the economic or in the financial or political field, and usually in all three of them. I had the opportunity of knowing our Secretaries of State from the beginning of my service. I had the opportunity of knowing our Secretaries of State from the beginning of my service. I had the opportunity of knowing a good many of our Presidents during that period. I had the opportunity of knowing President Roosevelt particularly well, as he placed this confidence in me. I had the opportunity of knowing so many men of importance in the European field. I had the special opportunity of knowing so many people in our own government during that period who were occupying responsible positions, and many of them gave me their friendship and confidence. I had very close relations and contact with the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. From at least 1930 on the chairmen of the committees were good friends of mine. I know a good many of the people on the Hill and had the opportunity of talking over things with them and they, I am glad to say, honored me by seeking me out and talking things over with me. I think there is one thing that I can say of myself, and that is that of all the diplomatic and consular officers in the Foreign Service over a long period of years, and particularly during the 20 years preceding my retirement in 1947, I had perhaps closer contact with the important men in business and finance all over our country than any other Foreign Service Officer. This I found necessary in my work and of course it was invaluable to me.

The course of events is much influenced by men. At times the course of
events is too much influenced by individuals. There seems to be little doubt that I did influence our policy with regard to certain aspects of the political and economic relationships in Latin America, as well as in Central and Western Europe over a fair period of years. The historians who have studied these periods and who have written, indicate this as they make reference to the documents in the files in the Department to which they have had access, both confidential and non-confidential. All of this leads me to believe that some of the comment which I may make may not only be of interest to a good many readers in my country, but that it will be of particular interest to officers of the Foreign Service and to those interested in the day to day conduct of our foreign relations, and particularly in the mechanism thereof. The story of a Foreign Service officer written in a frank way may serve as interpretive background to those interested in our foreign relations. The comment and observations which I may be able to make on events and on men with which I was intimately and directly associated may throw some light on things that are happening in these difficult days and in the days that we can look into in the immediate future.

Therefore, I repeat to myself that without placing any undue value on anything that I may have done or on my experiences or on my observations, that it is at least worth while making these notes. It may be that after these notes are made and they have been looked over by me and by someone else or by some friends who are in a position to judge, they will be able to give an opinion or an opinion may be formed as to whether it is worth while to put this material in book form. The only thing that I can say at this moment is that it does look as though, from the memoranda which I have already dictated, that the material has at least sufficient value to put it into this preliminary form. Whether it will have any useful purpose and whether it may usefully be published can be determined by others after there is sufficient material available.

I find in dictating these memoranda that although I have difficulty with chronology and particularly with specific dates, that so far as the events themselves
are concerned, they are almost as clear, if not as clear, as the day that they took place. I doubt very much that so far as fact is concerned that may appear in these memoranda that they will have to be much changed in any final form that this material may be put. It would of course have been very helpful if I had kept a diary during all these many years. I think, however, my despatches and letters are sufficient guides to take the place of a diary. Certain things which were of real interest at the time and which would have an interpretive value, particularly records of conversations, would be more interesting and useful if I had kept such a diary. It is too late to think about that. In any event, the important thing is for my own guidance in dictating these notes is that I find that my memory serves me extraordinarily well.

So far as the memoranda are concerned, I have arrived at the conclusion that there is no purpose in endeavoring to dictate these memoranda in any kind of chronological order or by country. If there is to be spontaneity and naturalness in the preparation of these memoranda and in any final things that I may publish, I think this is the best initial approach. I will therefore go ahead dictating memoranda by countries, or particular events, or by particular conversations or on specific comment I wish to make on one thing or another without any reference to sequence or without any reference to form in which the material may be published.

So far as frankness is concerned and personal comment with regard to individuals, I find already that there is much that even in the most frank expression in these notes I cannot put therein. I find that there are some things which while entirely correct, both so far as fact is concerned or so far as my interpretation is concerned, there are some of those things which cannot be put on paper, even in memoranda of this character, which in their present form are not intended for publication. On the other hand, I think it is important that in these memoranda I should be as frank as possible, both as to events and as to persons and as to my personal comment on events and persons. Others perhaps will be in a better position to judge how much should be eliminated than I may ever be able to judge, just as
others will be able to judge better than I as to what is worth while publishing and what is not worth while publishing.

I find already that now that I am dictating my memory of so many events is crowding in on me and it seems that the task will be a long one even of dictating these memoranda. I think I shall have to cover pretty much the whole field of memory so far as I think it is important enough even to make these preliminary memoranda, without paying too much attention to whether I think the substance of the memoranda is of interest to others or not. The best way will be to put down what occurs to me and leave it again to others to judge what it is worth.

Even if these memoranda never serve any useful purpose for anyone and never appear in print in any form, the reliving of these events is of great interest to me. That is a compensation in itself. I will therefore go on dictating the memoranda as I have outlined to myself in this memorandum.