When I arrived in Berlin in 1930 von Neurath was Minister of Foreign Affairs. He was a portly, courteous, cultured German. He had a fair knowledge of the world. He always carried himself courteously and on all the occasions that I saw him in Berlin was agreeable. He was a frequent visitor with Baroness von Neurath at parties at the American Embassy. He showed great friendliness to Ambassador Sackett and to Ambassador Dodd later. He frequently had dinners and parties, usually small ones, in the home of the Foreign Minister near the Hotel Adelon in Berlin. Mrs. Messersmith and I were frequently invited to these parties to accompany the Ambassador. I think probably I was asked so frequently because I talked German fluently and could be of assistance to the Ambassador with the Foreign Minister's guests who did not speak English. Baron and Baroness von Neurath themselves spoke English perfectly. I remember these parties very pleasantly, as they were intimate affairs and were not characterized by the usual formality and stiffness of Berlin diplomatic gatherings. I shall have occasion in these memoranda to make frequent reference to Baron von Neurath, but I wish to record now the one time I saw him after I left Berlin in May 1934 for Vienna.

It was I believe in 1936 or 1937, I shall have to determine the date, that Baron von Neurath came to Vienna to make a state visit. To the Austriangovernment the visit seemed inopportune. To the Allied diplomats in Vienna the visit seemed inexplicable and almost an affrontery. In view of the fact that the German Nazi government was continuously interfering in the internal affairs of Austria and had many agents scattered all over the country, and that the Nazi agents were endeavoring to incite all kinds of difficulties throughout the country, and in view of the constant pressures which were being brought upon the Austriangovernment by the German government, there seemed to be no reason whatever in the visit.

The visit lasted only a few days. I was fortunately able to avoid going to any of the receptions which were given with the exception of one. I felt that in view of the past relations that I had had with von Neurath and in view of his
behaviour after he became Foreign Minister under the Nazi regime, that I wished to see nothing of him. I was so utterly disgusted with his behaviour that I preferred not to have to shake hands with him or to have any words with him. A reception was given during his short stay in Vienna at the Schwartzenburg Palace, which was very close to our Legation Residence. The Prince Schwartzenburg who owned the Schwartzenburg Palace, which was one of the finest in Vienna, had been dispossessed of this house by the Socialist government of Austria some years before. The Palace was seldom used. I often strolled in the gardens because they were close to our house and they were really beautiful and were well kept up. The inside of the palace was not kept up very well and was seldom used. I often wondered why the Austrian government chose to have the reception for von Neurath in this particular palace when so many others were available.

My wife joined in my disgust and in my reluctance to go to this reception, but we felt that we had to go. Chancellor Schuschnigg received with other members of his Cabinet and had at his side Baron von Neurath. When it came our turn to pass by the reception line I had decided to keep the exchange of civilities to the minimum. I might as well not have given the matter any thought. Chancellor Schuschnigg, when he introduced me, said, "Baron von Neurath, here is an old friend of yours from Berlin." Von Neurath, with hardly a word, put out his hand and whatever words may have passed I do not recall them, but there were not more than half a dozen on either side and von Neurath turned to meet the next person. He obviously did not wish to talk with me. He was obviously embarrassed. His behaviour the whole evening I could see was disgustingly arrogant. Chancellor Schuschnigg spoke to me about his arrogant behaviour afterwards.