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SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

August 21, 1935

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

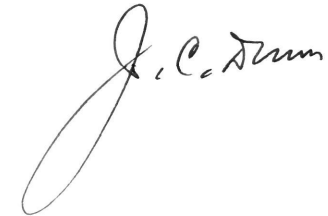
I was interested to receive your letter of August ninth, with its enclosure and memorandum by Kennan. The memorandum is most intelligently written and has some good straight thinking and is suggestive of some new ideas. I shall see that the higher officers of the Department all see it.

We have been kept working very hard here recently, for, in addition to the usual amount of work in connection with our various countries, we have had the Ethiopian affair and the preparations for the Naval Conference. Another thing which has occupied our attention has been studies in connection with the proposed neutrality legislation and production and control of traffic in

The Honorable  
George S. Messersmith,  
American Minister,  
Vienna.

arms and ammunition. I think the Department is doing some exceedingly interesting work along the lines of the latter two subjects, and, although the general question of neutrality is a most complicated one, we are hopeful that we might be able to obtain legislation that would fit the requirements of this country, even though the Senate and House do not give it to us in exactly the form we would like to have.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. C. Drum". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J" and a distinct "D".