

2044

Berlin, February 17, 1938.

Private and Confidential.

Dear George:

Yesterday afternoon, the day of my arrival, I had a talk with Prentiss in line with the discussion which you and Sumner and I had together. Prentiss took it very well and remarked, a statement which gave me some pangs of regret, that he wished we had discussed our relations in Geneva with the same frankness. He then asked whether he was free to write to you or Sumner or Howland in confidence as to where he might go, and I told him that he was as free as the larks and that if we could work out some good suggestion I would help out with it as far as I could.

He acquiesced in my statement that two civilized men could work this thing out in the interval period.

I am writing you only this morning, as the pouch closes at noon and I am due to meet Von Ribbentrop also at noon. Would you be good enough to let Sumner know that I have carried out my section of the arrangement.

The chancery is too-God-awful for words. I don't know what to do about it yet; but if I make a suggestion, have a heart!

Always very sincerely,

HRW TO

(HRW)

The Honorable
George S. Messersmith,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.