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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON.

May 10, 1933

Dear Messersmith:

Your letter of April 25th with its enclosures arrived at a particularly appropriate time as our attention is especially drawn to German affairs at the moment. This has been stimulated, of course, to a large degree by the visit of Doctor Schacht.

I wish I were at liberty to give you some indication of the trend of the conversations which have taken place, but as we are still in a formulative period, the conversations must, of necessity, remain confidential for the time being. For my own part, however, I must admit that I am disturbed by the turn they have taken and can only hope that the seriousness of the situation will be minimized by future developments.

The despatches which you and Gordon have sent in during the recent weeks have been particularly helpful to me and to the Department. The background you have provided has been intelligently set before us and your comments on specific questions have been very much to the point.

You both deserve high commendation for the conscientious and able work that you have been doing and I want to subscribe my personal commendation to you and Gordon so that of the Department, which I understand is going forward shortly.

The conditions under which you have been working in so far as they affect your official duties, as well as your personal affairs, are certainly very trying. I know that Mr. Carr is exerting all his power to obtain some measure of relief for our officers in the field. He will undoubtedly write you more fully along this line than I can as he is more closely connected with that phase of the situation. However, I am very much interested myself and shall do all I am able to assist in finding some means, if any are at all possible, to alleviate the burdens that have fallen on you all so heavily.

Sincerely yours,

(sign.) William Phillips.