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Vienna, June 20, 1936.

Dear Mr. Phillips:

I know you will be appalled at the length of this letter, but I am sure that you will find it contains very valuable background. It has been tremendously helpful to me to return to Vienna via London, Brussels, Paris and Berlin, and the idea was a good one. I told the President and the Secretary that I would write them about the trip as soon as I got back to Vienna, and I would appreciate very much your seeing that a copy of this letter is brought to their attention, with those parts marked which you believe will be of most interest to them.

After reading this letter, I find that there are still certain important aspects of the situation which have an immediate bearing on possible developments which I have not been able to cover, and concerning which I will write you later. The most hopeful thing I can say is that for the present the danger of conflict in Europe in the near future has decreased and is less than it was several months ago. We can take some comfort out of this, but not too much, for the dangers are still here in a wider but for the moment more quiescent form. The responsibility on England is tremendous, for

The Honorable

William Phillips,

Under Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

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it is on her policy in the next few months
that the turn for the better or the worse
will depend.

I enjoyed so much seeing you while at
home, and my wife joins me in all good wishes
to you and Mrs. Phillips.

Faithfully yours,

George S. Messersmith.

GSM/LGW