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Vienna, November 2, 1936.

Handwritten signature

Dear Dunn:

I am sending you herewith a copy of my letter of November 2 to the Secretary. It brings the position here up to date, so I offer no further comment.

I am also sending you herewith a number of clippings from the London TIMES, which I think you will find interesting if they have not already been brought to your attention. The ones numbered 5, 6 and 7, I think, may be particularly interesting.

The Vienna Conference is to be held on November 12 and 13. It may assume considerable importance. Certainly the states of Southeastern and Central Europe are all worked up over it, and Mussolini's speech yesterday in which he emphasized in such an extraordinary fashion support of Hungary's revisionist aspirations, and brought into relief the better relations between Italy and Yugoslavia, is bound to cause greater concern than ever. Italy has no real interest in furthering the revisionist aspirations of Hungary, and there are those who believe that what Mussolini is after is aiding Germany in splitting up the Little Entente as a further menace to France. I personally do not think that he has the least intention of aiding the Hungarians in the matter of revision, but that he is throwing another bombshell into the French camp in order to scare them and the British into those immediate arrangements in the Mediterranean in which he is interested. It is playing with fire which these dictators have to do. So far neither of them has been seriously burned. It is a dangerous game.

I am doing my best to keep informed as to what is being done concerning the Vienna meeting of

James Clement Dunn, Esquire,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

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November 12 and 13. It is unusually difficult to get any real information. I think there has been very little done in the way of an agenda, and what will be done will depend on Italy. Ciano, instead of coming here on November 11, is now coming on November 9 and he will bring the agenda in his pocket. The Austrians and Hungarians will have little to do with determining what is talked about. Mussolini's grandstand play yesterday in favor of Hungary is intended among other things to weaken Hungary's leaning towards Berlin, which has heretofore posed as the only supporter of Hungarian revisionist aspirations. The Hungarians have been slightly cold towards the Vienna meeting, because, as I told the Secretary, they wanted it held in Budapest.

It is not my intention to telegraph very much during the Vienna meeting, as I am confident it will be impossible to learn very much while it is going on. You may be sure, however, that I will get to you by telegraph or mail any worthwhile information which will be available. My own feeling is that it will be several weeks after the Vienna meeting before we shall have any real information concerning it. If anything of importance is accomplished, this will be all the more so. The Italians and the Germans are being tighter than ever about letting out any real information.

With all good wishes,

Cordially yours,

George S. Messersmith

Enclosures:

Copy of letter.
Clippings.

GSM/LGW