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June 17, 1940. Acknowledged. The Ambassador.

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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June 12, 1940

CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Mr. Messersmith:

I have received your letter containing a copy of that sent to Mr. Quisenberry. Mr. Abbinck was here this morning and I have invited him to dine with me tonight as I am tied up this noon lunching with Mr. Grady and Mr. Eugene Thomas. You will be interested to know that it has been possible for me to be of considerable use here in connection with the larger aspects of our present problems.

I had a long talk with Mr. Grady yesterday and his mind is very much occupied with policies that we shall have to pursue particularly commercial in connection with our foreign trade; and he has asked me to prepare a memorandum setting forth my views on these questions, using naturally as a basis, my knowledge of German military and international commercial policy. We will always be in a position to modify our attitude toward world questions along the line of our traditional international conduct; but we will be forced to follow a course which presupposes a possible military and commercial strengthening in the international field of the totalitarian powers.

I think if Goering has any memory he will remember that I said to him on the ninth of October that if he bombed Paris or London the United States would enter the war. The President's speech night before last fulfilled this prophecy; as there is no question in my opinion but that we are no longer neutral but non-belligerents; and the fact that we have definitely committed ourselves to a course of affording all possible aid to the Allies ~~makes~~ tantamount to our having entered the war. A declaration of war, which I think the logic of events will inevitably force upon us, will not materially

change

The Honorable
George S. Messersmith,
American Ambassador,
Habana.

Geist, Raymond H.

change the position with respect to our attachment to and efforts on behalf of the cause for which the Allies are fighting.

I am enclosing herewith a letter which I have had from Mr. Quisenberry and a copy of an address which he made last night at Philadelphia. I would appreciate it if you would return the copy to me as I want to retain in my files views expressed by our responsible business men and thinkers.

I have just received also your air mail letter with regard to the question which you recently put up to Mr. Long. I have, as you suggested in your letter, already taken up this question with Mr. Hosmer, as practically all matters that go from the chiefs of the divisions to Mr. Long are taken up first in this way. Mr. Hosmer tells me that Mr. Long has been ill and that his desk has pretty well piled up and that he believes that this matter has not yet had his attention. I have, however, been giving your question a great deal of study and have had talks with Mr. Huddle, Mr. Davis and Mr. Hosmer regarding this. I have also been studying the Regulations with Glenn Abbey and I shall be in a position in a few days to make some observations with regard to the agreement as was drawn up under your guidance, and I believe there may be some questions there that may have to be clarified before we tackle the main problem. I shall, however, keep you thoroughly posted and take up the question further with you as soon as practicable.

Things are moving very fast here in Washington on account of developments abroad and I anticipate that the Department will be facing graver questions as the summer approaches and that we shall all have a great deal to do to make effective and constructive contributions.

With many thanks for your letters and assuring you that I deeply appreciate your confidence and cooperation in all the problems in which I am directly concerned, I am ever

Faithfully yours,

Raymond