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MEXICO, D. F.

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REC'D: JUL 23 1953				
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REPL: SEP 17 1953				
FILE: Messersmith				

July 20, 1953.

Dear Dannie:

While I was in Vienna from 1934 to 1937 as American Minister the British Legation was in charge of Sir Walford Selby. We became very close friends and worked together very closely officially. The greater part of his career he had spent in the Foreign Office in London where he had been private secretary to the Foreign Secretary for years. He is a man of great understanding and retired after his tour of duty as Minister in Portugal. ~~Neville Chamberlain~~ did not like it and as a result of the strong attitudes which Selby took on many matters his career in the British Foreign Service was really ended too abruptly. I will tell you the story -the next time I see you.

I have written John Murray, the publisher in London, asking him to send you a copy of the book "Diplomatic Twilight" by Sir Walford Selby as I doubt whether it is available over here. You should get it in about ten days' time. I have just finished reading it and it is a very accurate story if not too well written. He was never a great hand at writing. He says some nice things in the book about me and there are two paragraphs which may interest you which I append hereto. You can see that the book is written by a disappointed man and he writes with even a certain bitterness which I can well understand. I thought you would be particularly interested in this book because it throws some light on the disorganization in the British Foreign Office for so many years and I can understand the situation the more fully because we have had to deal with somewhat the same thing in the Department of State after Mr. Hull left that Department and now Foster Dulles and Bettie Smith are hampered in trying to get this situation changed.

Please do not bother to acknowledge this letter.

With all good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

George S. Messersmith

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Deer Park,
Greenwich, Conn.,
U.S.A.

GSM/smf