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A-M

August 20, 1938.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Secretary:

A friend of mine, who is probably one of the best informed and unquestionably one of the most powerful persons in Europe in financial and industrial circles, has just written me that he has seen very recently one of the leaders of German industry and finance who has told him in confidence "if these people (referring to the present German regime) are not stopped, they will do anything they like -- and finally they want war". I refrain from mentioning in this memorandum the name of my friend and the name of the German who made this statement but you know who the personalities concerned are and therefore the significance which must consequently be read into the statement of this German. I may emphasize that my friend, in conveying this information to me, emphasized that the German friend had made the statement to him repeatedly during the course of a very long conversation. As we know that the German who made this statement is one fully cognizant of the real aims and objectives of the present German Government, the statement is, as my friend remarks to me, to be taken very seriously.

G. S. Messersmith.

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