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9th August, 1938.

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PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

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The Hon. George S. Messersmith,
Assistant Secretary of State,
WASHINGTON D.C.

Dear friend,

I am on the point of going away for my holiday, leaving to-night for Cuchy-Lausanne, Hotel Beau Rivage, where I shall join my family. I intend to stay there about ten days and then I shall probably go on to Aix-les-Bains, returning to Brussels about the 10th September.

I know exactly how you feel about the death of your Mother, but having kept her until the age of 89 I think you must not complain; you should feel happy at having made her happy through your achievements at the Department.

In looking through my files I find the last letter I wrote you is dated the 2nd June, before I went to Berlin. I stayed there three weeks at a nursing home two hours motor-ride from Berlin. It will probably astonish you to hear this, but I could find no other way to get rid of my knee trouble. I have not got quite over it yet, but it is better and I am playing golf again.

Schacht came out to see me twice. On one of the visits he stayed with me three hours and on the other six hours. I had most interesting talks with him. When I left I spent an hour at his office. He had dinner with me at the Hotel and saw me off at the train.

At least ten times he said that "if these people (referring to the present German régime) are not stopped they will do anything they like, and finally they want war." I do not wish his name to be mentioned, in order to avoid anything being done to him, but I certainly think you should know this. He was sincere in what he said and, as I have stated, he repeated it several times; even again at the last moment as the train was pulling out of the Friedrichstrasse Station. Now, I think this is very serious.

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The Hon. George S. Messersmith.

I have brought all the pressure I could on my English friends as regards the importance of concluding an American-British Agreement. Swinton was here and I told him many things about my stay in Germany.* He was very much impressed and promised to pass on the information to Lord Halifax and Mr. Chamberlain.

As I do not know whether you will be in Washington when this letter arrives, I am sending it to Gordon Auchincloss in New York asking him to forward it to you.

Ever yours,

Hemenway

x and the American British Agreement