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Vienna, August 9, 1935.

Dear Durn:

I wrote a personal letter to Mr. Phillips on August 6, commenting at some length on the general situation here and with particular reference to factors determining policy. As I am very careful about what I say in my despatches and in my letters in this respect and am constantly reviewing my own opinions in the light of the facts which I have, I gave this letter to Kennan to read before sending it on.

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He made some very interesting comments on it which I asked him to put into a memorandum, which he did, and I am sending a copy of it to you herewith. I thought it interesting that although we approached some of the points from a different road the conclusions reached were the same. Kennan is a particularly discriminating and, as you know, a very useful and capable officer and I thought this memorandum of sufficient interest to bring it to your attention. I always try to stimulate independence of thought on the part of the men associated with me and always appreciate it when they bring out strongly any points of difference of opinion. Kennan's background with regard to the situation over here is quite good and he makes some very pertinent comment in his memorandum which is of real interest and which I had very much in mind also in writing the letter, but which does not change either his or my conclusions.

If you have not seen the editorial in the LONDON TIMES of August 7, entitled "Two Dictatorships" you will find it intensely interesting and well worth reading in its entirety.

There are many interesting comments which I would like to make with regard to the actual developments in Germany which come to me here, but I must not impose on you further this week.

Cordially yours,

George S. Messersmith.

Enclosure:

1. memorandum.

James C. Durn, Esquire,
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