

452
ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

December 12, 1934.

Dear Messersmith:

A brief but none the less appreciative acknowledgment of your letter of November 8. Mr. Phillips also sent me up to read your letter to him of the same date which dealt with both Austrian and German matters. To take up some of the points you raised.

Mr. Alfred Hoyt Granger has returned and seemed very pleased with his trip to Austria and with the reception he had received at the Legation. I don't think you need anticipate any disposition toward troublemaking in that quarter.

As far as Dr. Deutsch is concerned, I cannot see by a fairly close reading of the daily press that he has attracted much attention except in groups which believe just as he believes. I am enclosing the only clipping of real interest which I have run across to date.

As

The Honorable
George S. Messersmith,
American Minister,
Vienna.

As far as Mr. Harriss is concerned, I shall take occasion to pass on orally your remarks in the right quarter as soon as occasion warrants. I understand that he has been in Washington for some time but he has not come up to the Division nor have our paths happened to cross.

John Gunther was in yesterday and I had a good talk with him. I tried to take him to see Bill Phillips but he was at the White House and had an appointment with the Canadian Minister immediately thereafter and Gunther was leaving by the three o'clock train. However, I arranged for him to go to the ~~White House~~ press conference and he may have had just a moment's chat there.

The Division is running along at full tilt. Rudy Schoenfeld got frightfully run down from overwork and was ordered away by his doctor for a month. He went to stay with Arthur Schoenfeld in Santo Domingo and writes me that he is again feeling in fine fettle. He is due back in about a week.

Well, Central Europe certainly went through a crisis in the past fortnight and I can imagine your interest being in the thick of it. Before it had even come to a head, I was told by one of the Little Entente representatives here that Benes and Titulesco had definitely made up their mind that the time had come when a body blow must be given to the political

philosophy

philosophy of revisionism; that this blow could be given with the full support of public opinion by linking revisionism and terrorism; that although the crisis might seem acute, it could have only one ending if Benes and Titulesco stood firm and refused to yield.

With this advance notice the events as they unfurled themselves in Geneva assumed a new significance. In so far as public opinion here became vocal, I should judge that it inclined to favor the Yugoslav thesis until the deportation of Hungarians began; thereafter sympathy veered to the other side. There is general recognition of the good work that the League did; in fact for the first time that I can remember the League has had a really good press. When it is possible to have a little clearer perspective, I hope we can judge a little better what role the Italians played and whether as I suspect they are running with the hare and hunting with the hounds.

Most of my time during the past two months has been taken up with the naval conversations going on at London, with especial emphasis to Anglo-American cooperation. I fear that from the very first there was little or no chance of reaching a meeting of minds with the Japanese, who were definitely not bluffing but insistent on scrapping the very principles on which the naval treaties were based. The more difficult problem was to effect an alignment between the British and American points of view. There have

452
-4-

been ups and downs but on the whole I am inclined to think that there is a better feeling between the British and Americans today than there was two months ago.

This letter will reach you just about Christmas time and carries with it the warmest greetings for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and Mrs. Messersmith from Lilla and myself.

With every good wish,

As ever yours,

PM