

1235
21 WASHINGTON SQUARE NORTH

New York, New York,
May 10, 1939.

Mr. George Messersmith,
State Department,
Washington, D. C.



Dear Mr. Messersmith:

The other night at the Council on Foreign Relations Dr. Juan Negrin had rather a success - or so Ham and others say.

I am taking the liberty of sending you a copy of his observations thinking that they might be of interest to you, particularly since he plans to make a public declaration some weeks hence. I know he is very eager to make the people in this country realize that he fought the war to save Spain's democracy. No one who knows him can honestly say that he has been or is the tool of anybody.

I was very much amused at the Council dinner when somebody asked him about the Krivitsky articles in the Saturday Evening Post and the references therein to the influence of the OGPU in Spain. Don Juan answered that it would be silly to deny that the OGPU had chiseled in - particularly during the Spring of 1937, but, he added, the British Intelligence Service and the French Deuxieme Bureau managed to achieve much more influence as the events of the last week show.

He is a very old friend of mine. I met him in 1926. He was then Professor of Physiology at the University of Madrid and partner in the Editorial Espana which brought out such inflammatory literature as Francis Hackett's "Henry VIII," "All's Quiet on the Western Front" and medical text books. Dr. Cannon at Harvard says he is one of the world's great physiologists. As Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Cortes, he won the reputation of being the most level headed deputy in the Republican ranks.

He is a Social Democrat, not a Marxist. As you may know, he was authorized by the Permanent Cortes to continue as the head of the Republic outside of Spain. As such he has some very interesting plans.

He is a very great realist and is deeply sympathetic to the President and his Pan-American policy.


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I am sending you this speech with both his permission
and Armstrong's.

Sincerely,

Jay Allen

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jay Allen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.