

My dear Mr.Messersmith:
I was so happy, to see by today's paper that you are appointed to such important position in Washington.
I suppose you will leave sonn, I am so sorry, that I won't see you before you leave, I will stay here till July 14th, I am sailing for the U,S, early in September for San Francisco, I hope very much, to see you sometim in New-York, please remember me to your Mrs;

With my hearty good wishes for your future Yours very sincerely

Omermed List

Law School of Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

June 23, 1937

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

When I learnt of the abrupt cancellation of Neurath's visit to London, I could not help thinking that Great Britain might have saved herself this rebuff had she acted on your wisdom concerning the present posture of European affairs and your counsel regarding the proper attitude at the moment toward Germany. How right you were that the time may come for negotiation with Germany—but not now. But perhaps Great Britain had to learn this lesson in the crude and rude way in which it has been administered—for, the Lord knows, she has had enough indications during the last year or so of the rightness of your views.

As it is, all the dispatches from London indicate that Europe is again standing on the edge of anxiety, and fearing the worst. The present crisis may be hurdled as crisis after crisis has been hurdled. But the up-shot is more jangled nerves and a general temper that builds up not healthy but unhealthy international relations.

You are, of course, the last man who needs to be told so, but I could not withhold a word of appreciation for the soundness of your diagnosis of the present complexities, and a word of regret that circumstances deprived me of the pleasure and the illumination of a talk with you.

With warmest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Their Frankerte.

Hon. George S. Messersmith

Vienna, July 6, 1937. Dear Dr. Frankfurter: Your thoughtful note of June 23rd has just reached me in the midst of our preparations for a rather precipitate departure for home. my surprise I have had this telegram calling me home, and then the information that I am to remain in the Department as an Assistant Secretary of State. My feeling with regard to this are very mixed, for, while I naturally appreciate the new mark of confidence, I am so deeply interested in the situation over here, because of what it means for the peace of the world, including our own. I shall do my best in this new post in which the President and the Secretary want me to serve, and there is a great deal to be done, which I hope I may be able to do, in straightening out some problems affecting administrative practices. Mrs. Messersmith and I are leaving on the WASHINGTON from Hamburg on July 13th, and I shall be in Washington from about July 25th I hope very much that I may have the privilege of seeing you there the next time you come to Washington, as I feel very much the need of a talk with you. I spent the week-end at Marienbad, where I saw several of my friends who came there to meet me in order that we might compare views. These friends are among the best informed people in Europe, and I was relieved to find that our view points remain identical. If London and Paris will remain firm, the worst may yet be avoided, but the attitude of our English friends is sometimes hard to understand. Dr. Felix Frankfurter, Law School of Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Personal JOHN BASSETT MOORE Suntay, SAGAPONACK, N. Y. July 4, 1937 Dearth. Messersmith: held : 7/19/37 recall prist meeting in Washington nearly hourly - four years ago, about the hime of your gamination for the consular service. My old schoolmate and lifelog friend, Willard Saulsbury, had spoken to me in the warmest terms of what you had done and rought woutually

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accomplish. You have Jus-Tified his commendation and his forecast: Mey connection with the foreign service began in 1885, when, after passing The first examination erre held for a place in the Wyartent. of State, I was affoirted a law clerk. A year later, without solici. lation on my part, I was made This assistant Secretary. Perhaps there is no one else now living who held a similar responsible post in the service. I am therefore

in a position, as Edmind Burke said, to attest the advancing generation to which you belong, and to which You furnish a conspicuous qample of farthful and intelligent performance of duty. Believe me to be, with all food wishes, Faithfully Jones, Me luore

Retourable George S. Mussersmitt, ele., ite., ité.

July 31, 1937 My dear Dr. Stuart: Your letter of July sixth reached me, as you know, during your stay in Washington, and although I have already expressed my pleasure at receiving it I want to tell you again how much I appreciate your writing me. The many letters which I have had from colleagues and friends have been a great encouragement, and it is my hope that I may be able to build constructively on the really splendid foundation which has already been laid for our Foreign Service. I am deeply appreciative of the interest which you take in our Service and hope that you may continue it. I shall always be glad to have whatever observations you may care to make in this respect. It was very nice to see you here and I look forward to seeing you again. Believe me, with very good wishes, Sincerely yours. Graham H. Stuart, Ph.D., Department of Government, New York University, Washington Square College, New York, New York. GSM: FEH

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON SQUARE COLLEGE WASHINGTON SQUARE, NEW YORK 6 July 1937 DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT acked 7/31/37 The Honorable George Messersmith Assistant Secretary of State Washington, D.C. Dear Mr. Messersmith: To say that I was delighted to hear of your appointment as Assistant Secretary of State would put it mildly. I have always regarded you as at the very top of the career men in ability, and it is most heartening to see that the Department has adequately recognized it. My only fear is that you will work so hard at the job that your health may not stand up under it. Since I last saw you in Vienna I had a long and cordial letter from Secretary Hull, with considerable material for my lectures in Geneva, and just today a letter from Mr. McBride was forwarded from Scotland asking me to see the Secretary when I get to Washington. Do you expect to be there this summer as I would like to time my visit so as to see you. Regarding our discussion of a foreign service school I later saw Mr. Bullitt in Paris and found that he had apparently lost interest. The job of reorganizing the Paris office seemed to be occupying his whole attention, which is all to the good. I am here lecturing for three weeks more while my family stay in Scotland until the middle of August. I hope you don't have too hot a summer in Washington and my very best wishes for a brilliant success in your new position. Sincerely yours, graham H. Stuart :R

Vienna, January 7, 1937. Dear Mr. Tinkham: I was delighted to have your letter of December 10, with your good wishes for the New Year which Mrs. Messersmith and I appreciate very much. I have not failed to convey your good wishes to the other members of the Legation staff, who are appreciative of your thoughtfulness. I need not tell you how much we all wish you a New Year filled with all manner of good things. I appreciate very much your sending me the clipping with regard to your re-election. I know that there are a good many people who would be curious to know how you do it, for I doubt if there is another Member of Congress who would take the risk of not seeing his constituency until the eve of election day. It was really a wonderful personal triumph for you and I sincerely congratulate you. No wonder the newspapers in other parts of the country copied this article, for it was certainly a unique thing. Mrs. Messeramith and I are planning to return home in the spring and we shall probably leave here early in April. I can't make any definite plans for the situation over here in Europe remains so uncertain, but I am hoping that not only we shall be able to take our leave, but that this time we may be able to spend a little more time at home than we have in the past years. My mother is 88 years of age now so that I am naturally eager not to delay my trip too much. We look forward to seeing you in Washington and I will appreciate the opportunity to continue the pleasant and stimulating conversations which we were able to have this summer. In the meantime if there is any phase of the situation in which you are interested and on which you think I might be able to comment, I would always be glad to hear from you. The Honorable George Holden Tinkham, House of Representatives. Washington, D. C.

- 2 -The Leland Harrisons, as you undoubtedly know, have gone home on leave and you will most certainly see them in Washington. Looking forward to seeing you in the spring, and with very best wishes from Mrs. Messersmith and myself. Cordially yours, George S. Messersmith.

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COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, D. C.

December 10, 1936

JAN - 4 1937

BRAT CONSULATIONS

Personal

My dear Mr. Messersmith:

Upon my return from Europe on November 2, went to Boston, where I remained until two weeks ago, when I came to Washington.

I am writing to thank you and Mrs. Messersmith most sincerely for all your courtesies to me when I was in Vienna last Summer. You were both exceedingly kind and hospitable and contributed in a large measure to making my stay in Vienna one of the pleasantest periods of my entire trip. I assure you I deeply appreciate all your attentions.

After leaving Vienna I spent two weeks in Rome, one week in Venice, two or three days in Belgrade, twelve days in Bucharest, nine days in Paris and nine days in London, returning to the United States on the QUEEN MARY which arrived at New York on November 2, the day before the elections. As of possible interest to you, I enclose a press dispatch concerning my reelection which appeared in the principal Boston afternoon paper and which I understand was copied over the country.

I came away from Europe feeling that we had correctly analyzed the European situation, looking only at fundamentals.

Please present my respects to Mrs. Messersmith and kindly remember me to all my friends at the Legation. They were all very kind to me and very helpful.

With cordial regards to you and Mrs. Messersmith and with the best wishes of the Season, I remain

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE HOLDEN TINKHAM

The Honorable George S. Messersmith United States Minister Mienna, Austria

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS
FINE HALL
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

den 21. September 1937.

Mr. George Messersmith
Assistant Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington D.C.

Hochgeehrter Herr Messersmith!

Ich danke Ihnen herzlich für die ausführliche und liebenswürdige Beantwortung meines
Schreibens vom 26.Juli. Ich kann begreifen, dass Sie
durch den dienstlichen Usus gezwungen sind, sich
ausschliesslich an den Weg der amtlichen Instanzen zu
halten und die Gutachten sonstiger medizinischer
Autoritäten zu ignorieren. Gleichwohl möchte ich der
Hoffnung Ausdruck geben, dass ein Weg gefunden werde,
dem von mir berichteten bedauerlichen Zustand ein Ende
zu machen.

Mit aller Hochachtung

Ihr

A. Einstein.

Emster, a

October 11, 1937.

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Secretary:

on the general world situation and which are set forth in the following paragraphs will be of interest to you as they come from one who has had long and intimate contact with these problems, whose sources of information and opportunities for observation have been unusually good and whose purely patriotic motives cannot be questioned. This observer is of the opinion that the gravity of the actual and developing position in Europe and in the Far East cannot be exaggerated, and that it has for the United States a vital significance. His observations and conclusions will be given in the following paragraphs.

(a) "Although the conflict in the Far East provoked by Japan in China now has the front center of the stage, and the conflict in Spain and the Mediterranean question in which Italy is so important a factor are well in the foreground, the most important factor is still Germany. Until recently the developments in Germany and the plans of the national socialist regime which affected the interior of that

country

country, as well as Europe in general, were in the foreground. Now these seem in the popular consciousness —
and perhaps in the minds of some responsible statemen —
pushed very such into the background. It must be emphasized
therefore that the crux of the major problem which concerns
the world and the United States is still Germany. With the
German problem settled and a Government there with which the
United States and other countries could deal in a normal
way, the difficult questions in the Far Sast and in the
Mediterranean, as well as the general European question,
would permit of a fairly ready, gradual and reasonable
settlement.

the present disordered world relations as due to the struggle between 'haves' and 'have note'. This idea is being pushed forward principally by and in the dictatorships but there is a noticeable tendency to give credence to this as the principal factor in circles in other countries besides in the dictatorships. There is something deeper and more vital in this situation than a struggle between the 'haves' and 'have note' and it is this basic clash of ideologies. It is very simple and perhaps convenient for come in the democracies to state that they are not interested in ideologies but the most vital and basic factor in the present situation is this conflict of ideologies.

"The world is witnessing in at least three of the major dictatorships a reversion to the doctrine of force and of might and to an entirely different international morality than that which has slowly and painfully been built up in the last centuries. This resurrection of law of force is to replace present international law and practice and a whole new system of public and private morals based on the doctrine of might and force is to be imposed on the world. The problems involved in the struggle conceived to exist between the 'haves' and 'have nots' merely form one of the external presentations of this new international morality.

"Not only a completely new political and social order is being set up, but a new economic order has been established in the dictatorships. It is based on the idea of self-sufficiency and the imposition of bilateral agreements always to the benefit of the stronger state. Within the dictatorships, agricultural production has been stimulated and put on an artificial basis which cannot indefinitely exist. Industrial production has been stimulated and almost the entire industry transformed and put on an armament basis. The sum total of the economic and financial internal measures undertaken by the dictatorships is the imposition on them of a system under which the public and private resources are being used up, real wages are constantly sinking, the nation

including the United States, are not willing to defend their political, social and economic views now by all peaceful methods at their command, it is only a question of time when they shall have to defend them with force.

(c) "There is no logical escape from the fact that, if the lawless nations continue to gain their ends through force, or through the threat of force, or if too dangerous compromises continue to be made as they have been made in recent years, disintegration will proceed inexorably and to the point at which the peace of the world will be definitely endangered and catastrophic war the sole possible outcome.

has been possible only by the abandonment by the two great European democracies of one position after the other. In fact, since the end of the World War there has been one concession after the other, first to Germany, and then to Italy and to Japan in the hope that these concessions would satisfy and maintain the peace. The concessions have only whetted the appetite and the net result of the concessions is the situation which Europe and the rest of the world face today. A general war can be averted if the democracies continue further on this road of one sided concessions, which can only lead in the end to war unless we conceive of the possibility of the democracies going down without any final end struggle.

"To the informed and observing there is no escape from the conclusion that the United States are the ultimate object of attack of the powers grouped in this new system of force and lawlessness and that when the time comes for the lawless states to deal with the United States, the latter will be practically alone for the rest of the democracies will have been cleared out of the way. That the United States are the last on the list of the nations against which this doctrine of force is to be applied can give them only small consolation. The world has seen the action of the Japanese in Manchukuo and now in China; it has seen the Italian action in Ethiopia and is now observing it in Spain and in the Mediterranean. The authors of these policies have left no doubt, either by their declarations or their actions, as to what their intentions are. With increasing successes, pretense has been dropped and even the former barrage of protests of good intentions and pious declarations have disappeared. What has been seen so far and is going on in the way of action and of the application of this doctrine of force as an instrument of policy is only the forerunner, and must be viewed only as the forerunner, of similar and more serious acts if the movement is not soon stopped. There is ample and increasing evidence that the doctrine of force is already in the stage of cumulative effect.

"So far the Western Hemisphere has been spared these acts of force by the lawless states. The United States, however, must know from its experience in the past what. the agpirations of Japan and Germany are in the Western world. Some of the smaller and less powerful states in the Western world can speak volumes on this subject. tentative action of the lawless states and its consequences have been felt at a time when the reassertation of the doctrine of force was still in its infancy, in fact hardly conceived. Once the position in Europe is propitious, one can realize the degree to which the force of the dictatorships will be felt in more than one spot in Bouth America and further north. The ground in some of these countries to the South is already fairly propitious to receive a certain doctrine of force. The careful observer will not fail to keep in mind that the establishment of the dictatorships and the regimes of force play into the hands of a brutish, power-seeking, utterly enselfish group which is found in every country and which only needs encouragement and opportunity to lift up its head and assert itself.

(d) "It is therefore not only territory which is in play -- as too many observers are inclined to think. In some ways territory is the least which is at stake. What is at stake fundamentally are these new ideas and new forces which are constantly coming more strongly into action and

whose field of action is definitely, if slowly and cumulatively, expanding. All these new ideas and forces are directly opposed to the concepts, basic ideals and principles of action so happily still prevailing in the democracies.

"The maneuvers now in progress in the Far East, in Spain and in the Mediterranean, and in the general European picture, are only steps along a long road which the dictatorships have fairly well surveyed and laid out. These may even be considered, catastrophic as they appear now, as only intermediary and subsidiary steps. The single aim of the dictatorships, under the subtle leadership of the present Government in Germany, is the disintegration of the British Empire, the consequent weakening of England in Europe, the Dominions and component parts of the Empire easy proy to the dictatorships, and thus the opening of the way to attack on the United States, which by then would stand practically alone.

The basic plan conceived by the national socialists in control in Germany is (1) complete centrol of Germany through the coordination of all public opinion forming means within the country and complete control by the party of every aspect and expression of German life, (2) physical absorption of Austria and Czechoslovakia, (3) complete political, social and cooncaic hegemony of Southeastern Europe by Germany, (4) the acquisition of the Ukraine, (5) concurrent with

these steps the isolation of Russia, (6) the weakening of France through the break down of Soviet alliances and by the development of English-German friendship and cooperation, (7) in the meantime and concurrent with the latter part of the foregoing program, the disintegration of the British Empire would be in progress and reach a point when this disintegration could be accelerated by Germany at any time she saw fit, (8) with England weakened, the way would be open to the United States as the richest and strongest country of the world. It is really against the United States and England that the program is directed for we are considered the only worthy antagonists and we have what they want.

The foregoing program is not based on any idle suppositions but on first hand conversations with major leaders
of the present German Covernment who in such conversations
have made no secret of their intentions. If there are those
who still believe that such a program credits the fascist
states with too sinister objectives, the story can now be
read in the facts themselves by all but the blind.

(e) "The Soviet regime, although properly classified as one of the major dictatorships, must be considered for the present in a class separate and apart from the other three lawless states. Comparisons between the dictatorships themselves are in any event dangerous for in some respects they differ as much from each other in various ways as they

European thinking, and to a certain extent in the United States today, is in placing Soviet Russia so completely in the same category with the other three major dictatorships. Communism as a doctrine is as dangerous to the reign of order of the democracies as is fascism or national socialism but there is reason to believe that in Russia there has been a gradual transformation of communism into a form of states socialism which can accommodate itself gradually to the economic systems of the democracies. The autarchic systems of the other three fascist states do not show this flexibility and at least of Germany and Italy have shown no tendency to compromise.

"Politically the Soviet regime has in Surope no territorial ambitions and in Asia doubtful ones, or at least such
less fundamentally upsetting to world order. Politically and
economically there is no country in the world today which
needs peace more than Russia and few which have reason to
fear war more. In case of war Soviet Russia would be engaged on the Vestern as well as on the Eastern front with a
population at home of doubtful loyalty. For the present
and for the foreseeable future the probabilities are that
the Soviet regime can be counted upon as a factor for peace
rather than for war. This is more than can be said for the

other three major dictatorships. It would seem, therefore, a policy of wisdom to use this cooperation which the present Government of Russia is willing to lend for at least it tends toward stability and for the reestablishment of order. If there is a danger inherent in Russia for Europe and the world, it is a matter of the future and not of the present, while the three other dictatorships are actively today threatening that peace. There is at least the probability that should Soviet Russia wish to disturb the peace of Europe in the future, she would then face a united and a strong rather than a dicorganized and weak Europe.

(f) "The externals of the whole movement in the Far East and in Europe give the picture of a reversion to the worst stage of feudalism. The interests of the United States are as such threatened as those of any other country. As the Department of State is the instrument through which the foreign policy of the country is conducted and is the advisor to the President on matters affecting foreign relations, the responsibility resting upon that Department in the face of present developments is a serious one.

"The policy of the United States is definitely one of peace but the people of the United States still envisage this as the maintenance of a long range and a long term peace and not as a policy aimed at the maintenance of an armistice bought at a price which means ruin through war at

the end. The only cafe policy for the United States would seem one which does not risk the future definitely and the destruction of all that our people have stood for and struggled for. The policy which the interests of the United States, therefore, would dictate is a long range policy for peace and order, which looks clearly at the facts, and which is based only on the facts as they must be faced from day to day.

"A purely negative attitude now on the developments which are taking place in the Far East and in Europe, such as the determined adherence of isolation proposed, would present the great risk that the major bulwark which stands between the United States and the successful dictatorships — the British Empire — will be destroyed. Once the Empire is weakened, the position of the United States is weakened for them it will stand practically alone.

(g) There are those who still need proof of the intentions of the lawless states. They seem to think that as long as their acts are aimed only at others it can be a matter of no concern to the United States. There could not possibly be a more fallacious viewpoint of its interests. If the cynicism of Hitler, Mussolini, and the Japanese militarists have not convinced in the past there are now the acts of all three in more than one country. As to the national socialist regime in Germany, which is the main spring

of the whole movement and the real power behind it, there are Hitler's own words. Those who know the national socialist leaders do not have any doubts as to their acts being even more ruthless than the Japanese and Italian massacres of civilians in Ethiopia, China and Spain.

"It is not that proof is lacking but that truth is being ignored.

"It is the fears of war and the horrors of war which persist in the democratic states, and understandably so, which are paralyzing their action. It is exactly this which the fascist states are deliberately capitalizing. Just as in every political, social and economic sphere they are capitalizing the worst that lies in human nature in the most cynical fashion and have showed a realistic perception of these less fine human characteristics, -so this fine feeling existent in the democracies and which finds expression in the fear and horror of war is being capitalized by these cynical regimes and so far with a success that seems incredible. This fear of war in the democracies which has been accompanied by an extraordinary patience which does them credit may if carried beyond a certain point lead to their ruin. It is in this particular aspect, that a dangerous game of poker is being played in Europe. The dictators hope and are playing their hands on

the hope that the patience of the democracies will be carried beyond the point of safety. The democracies hope that by the exercise of patience they will wear out the dictatorships and in the meantime are increasing their own strength through rearmament. This is a dangerous game with great stakes for the stake is really peace and the saving of civilization.

(i) "The democracies recognize that force and war . are still instruments of international policy and action. This recognition is shown in the fact that they maintain armies and navies. Even the peace societies are in favor of certain armament for defense. The democracies, however, while recognizing force as unfortunately still an instrument of policy and while maintaining military and naval forces, wish to use them only for defense. The dictatorships, however, not only recognize force as an instrument of policy but consider it as an active instrument and are arming themselves to the teeth and brandishing their armaments before the world with the hope that through this threat of force over more peaceful nations they may gain advantages contrary to the international morality, right and decency. They know that they cannot now get away with this by the actual use of force if the other nations choose to assert themselves. It is therefore upon the fear of war in the democracies that

"It is out of these basic ideas that there grows this common action on the part of Germany, Italy and Japan when they lack any other common ground on which united action is usually based. They put out this definite threat of force and war hoping that, although the balance in the way of actual power is against them, their aggressive action and the fear of war will permit them to gain piecemeal, but steadily, their ends, and finally the goals which they have set for themselves.

The United States are increasingly being faced by a recognition of the fact that these developments in the Far East and in Europe cannot leave them cold; that it is on what happens there that will depend to a large extent their own security, happiness and maintenance of those ideals in which we believe. No matter how much, therefore, they may wish to feel aloof from what is happening in the Far East and in Europe, no matter how much they should like to find shelter behind so-called neutrality legislation, the people are beginning to realize more fully every day that the vital question before them is whether the country will follow a temporizing policy which will almost certainly bring war in the end or one which offers the hope of really maintaining

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making Department in foreign affairs the responsibility for informing and guiding public opinion in its own interest is a heavy one on the Department of State.

(j) "In view of the foregoing, it is ventured that, while all of the action of the United States now must have for its primary objective the maintenance of the general peace through peaceful means and the noninvolvement of the country in war, there must be this basic formulation of a policy which does not make war inevitable in the end. The policy of the United States must be a wise, long range policy of peace and not one which by concessions and complaisance will bring about inevitable war."

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