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May 10th, 1939.



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

Dear Mr. Messersmith:-


Thank you for your letter of May 9th and for the memoranda which you sent with it regarding the consolidation of the foreign services of the Departments of Commerce and Agriculture into that of the State Department.

I am relieved that the step has been taken, and I am sure it will prove to be constructive. There will be some criticism - I have already had several telephone calls from dissenters - but I doubt that it will be organized.

May I offer my congratulations on your able presentation of the plan as embodied in the memoranda and statements. They are convincing, I think, to any objective mind, and if there is any help I can give in defending the move (should that be necessary) or in working out details, you have only to command me. I am scheduled (so far) for nine addresses before Chambers of Commerce in widely scattered cities in New England and the Middle West during Foreign Trade Week, May 21 - 26. In each of them I shall say that I think the plan is helpful, and should have the support of everyone interested in our foreign trade.

With best wishes,

Yours truly,


President

John Abbink
- SF