

Enclosure No. to despatch
No. 573, of October 11, 1935,
from the Legation at Vienna,
Austria.

(TRANSLATION)

Source: Vienna WIEHNER
ZEITUNG, Oc-
tober 10, 1935.

SPEECH OF THE AUSTRIAN REPRESENTATIVE AT
GENEVA, MINISTER PFUNGEL, ON OCTOBER 9,
1935, BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE
OF NATIONS.

"In submitting to you a few considerations which arise out of the exceedingly delicate situation into which Austria has been placed by the statements of the President, I must first of all comply with the instructions of my government to confirm again the loyal attachment of Austria to the idea of the League of Nations. The statements of the President are directed against a member-state, our great neighbor and loyal friend, for whom our country has the greatest sympathy under the present circumstances. Austria will never forget that at a critical time of her history, it was Italy which, animated by the real spirit of the League, effectually contributed through her intercession to the protection of the integrity and independence of another member of the League.

Close ties of friendship exist between Austria and Italy. Austria will not abandon a friendship which is destined to last into the distant future. This friendship is still strengthened by a debt of gratitude which, it is true, is not envisaged in the League Covenant, but which puts us under an obligation. Austria trusts that the League, even if it initiates sanctions, which will be something new in its annals, will always keep in mind its highest task, the preservation of peace. Under the deep impression created by the protect of Italy, Austria is confident that the League will exhaust all its resources before taking a course which certainly involves considerable and unknown economic difficulties. My government even considers it a duty of loyalty to the League to direct the attention of the League Assembly to the serious dangers which would logically be caused by sanctions for the economic life of Europe and quite particularly for those of the small states which, in view of the unfavorable living conditions forced upon them, have only a very limited power of economic and financial resistance. My government thinks in this connection not only of Austria, but also of her creditors.

I refer furthermore to the statements of the Austrian federal government in its note of April 30, 1932, to the League of Nations, regarding the appli-

cation . .

application of sanctions. The federal government is strengthened in its conviction that its point of view is correct by the fact that the same main idea was included in appendix f of the Treaty of Locarno and that this view has since been shared by the League itself.

I reserve to myself the right to make more detailed statements in the course of the deliberations of the proposed commission.

In view of these considerations, the Federal Government is at present unable to agree to the same conclusions as the other members of the League."