

21 WASHINGTON SQUARE NORTH

January 26, 1939.

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



Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I am sending you three items for their curiosity value, two of which are the first of the Italian sagas on aviation in Spain.

In "Italiani in Spagna" you will see that they admit what many of us knew; namely, that they used flame-throwers to kill prisoners at Guadalajara. Naturally, one is inhibited when it comes to mentioning such happenings because no one believes in atrocities any more, particularly the people who are trying to keep us out of the last war by insulating us against any of the influences which they think operated then. Belgian babies didn't have their hands cut off - ergo Italians don't kill prisoners with flame-throwers.

Please note also in l'Aviazione Legionaria in Spagna opposite page 129 a Mickey Mouse on the tail of the Savoia Marchetti 81. Do you know Mickey Mouse has been banned in Italy. It is not considered funny. I don't think it funny either, as here used. Of course, I am prejudiced.

I used to know the Italian air attache in Madrid, Longo. He was such a nice fellow. He still is. When I saw him in New York something over a year ago, he was on his way to South America. I am sure that you have had reports about the activities of Gen.

Ulysse Longo in various Latin American countries since. He expressed deep and I am sure sincere regret over what he had had to do in Spain. Even then he had little hope in the Generals. He knew them so well! He regretted having been unable to make use of some of the magnificent pilots he had trained when he was instructor of Alfonso's air force back in the early '20s, men like Hidalgo de Cisneros, now Chief of the Loyalist's air force.

I told him that I thought it a great pity that his mob had not waited for a few more months in 1936 until Rio Tinto, I. T. & T. and the various French philanthropic organizations engaged in mining in Spain, had rendered the life of the Popular Front unbearable. Then Mussolini could have offered his support to the Left to save it from the "Capitalist Imperialism" of the Western democracies. That would have been smart of them. Longo half way agreed. I hope that he has not learned so much as to attempt new tactics in Chile. I could develop this idea further with no advantage to either of us.

Will you be kind enough to return the two Italian epics but keep the third item which consists of two photostats, one of a page of the Brooklyn Tablet containing a vicious attack on F.D.R. and the other a page of the Flammenzeichen of Stuttgart, Germany, which quite by a curious coincidence carries the same attack. The German paper is dated December, and we assume it to be early in December because it is numbered 49 and the issue numbered 52 is still in December. Consequently the German effort which appeared first could have reached Brooklyn in time for the issue of December 24th.

I went down to Washington ten days ago and, although you had warned me that you were very much occupied, took a chance and called

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you. I really didn't expect you to find time for me.

I hope to be down again one of these days to collect some information to round out my chronology of events before and after the outbreak of the civil war in Spain which I have been working on for almost a year for Ham. I thought Ham's book a wholly remarkable performance and like what Ray Swing said about it, which was more or less that although he was in Europe at the time of Munich with very good connections he wasn't quite sure what had happened until he read the book.

I was deeply moved by Mr. Stimson's letter. Far be it from me to attempt to judge the merits of his legal case, although it looks good to my wishful eyes.

I would like to point out what I consider to be a striking parallel between the Colonel's letter and the one written by Mr. Jefferson to Mr. Monroe on October 24, 1823, which I have culled from Reuben Clark's memo on the Doctrine. Doubtless you are familiar with the letter. I am thinking particularly of the passage beginning, "Its object is to introduce and establish the American system. . . ." and the end of the paragraph, "Nor is the occasion to be slighted which this proposition offers of declaring our protest against the atrocious violations of the rights of nations by the interference of any one in the international affairs of another, so flagitiously begun by Bonaparte, and now continued by the equally lawless Alliance calling itself Holy."

Most sincerely,

Jay Allen.

P.S. I suppose that Mr. Stimson's non-recognition doctrine would apply in Spain as long as the Germans and Italians are there -- or would it?