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May 9, 1939.

My dear Mr. Abbink:

I think you will be pleased to know that the President has sent today to the Congress reorganization plan number two which includes among other things the consolidation of the Foreign Service of Commerce and that of Agriculture into that of State. I am sending you herewith as of interest to you a copy of a joint statement made by the Departments of State, Commerce and Agriculture to the press today after the plan had been submitted to the Congress by the President and from which you will note that the plan has been submitted by the President with the full approval of the three Departments concerned. This joint press release gives some of the important items which are explanatory of the plan but which do not necessarily appear therein or in the President's message. I am also sending you herewith a statement issued by Secretary of Commerce Hopkins today on the same subject.

As of possible interest to you I am taking the liberty of sending you copies of personal and confidential letters which I wrote on April 28 to Mr. Farrell and to Mr. Thomas. I believe that these letters may contain some information which has further background.

I am convinced that this step towards the consolidation of the Foreign Services of Commerce and Agriculture into that of State is one of the most constructive steps which our Government could take in strengthening the machinery for the conduct of our foreign relations in these difficult times and for the assuring that the best possible service will be given by our Foreign Service abroad to our Government and to our interests in this country. Each detail has been very carefully considered and I believe that every interest is safeguarded and that the public interest will be promoted by the consolidation.

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I had prepared some time ago a rather long memorandum which gives the historical and other background of consolidation of the Foreign Services. This memorandum has up until today not been given any circulation, but I am glad to make the appended copy available to you as I know of your very real and constructive interest in this matter. It is rather long but I think you will be interested in reading it at your leisure.

Hoping to have the pleasure of seeing you the next time you come to Washington, believe me,

Cordially and sincerely yours,

Enclosures:

1. Joint Statement;
2. Copy of letter to Mr. Farrell;
3. Copy of letter to Mr. Thomas;
4. Statement of Secretary of Commerce Hopkins;
5. Mimeographed memorandum.

A-M:GSM:VNG