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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

August 15, 1934.

My dear Messersmith:

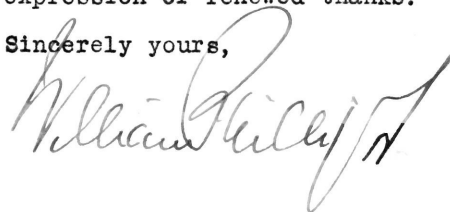
On my return to the Department after a short holiday I find your letters of July 14th and August 1st. The last letter, especially, is naturally of immense interest and gives a remarkable picture of the tragedy of July 25th. I am, of course, particularly interested in having your view point about the Nazi putsch and I must say the evidence which supports your conclusions is impressive. It does seem to me amazing, however, that any government, even the German Government, would go so far as to commit itself to such a crazy scheme, so badly planned and half-baked. It must have been a thrilling time for you and I am thankful that you were on the spot at such

The Honorable  
George S. Messersmith,  
American Minister,  
Vienna.

a critical moment.

You will forgive me for not writing you a long letter, but I am trying to tackle the mountain of matters before the Secretary leaves this afternoon on his holiday. I shall merely end with this expression of renewed thanks.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William Phillips". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "William Phillips".