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A-M

August 21, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

Before I was able to bring this memorandum to the attention of Mr. Welles, Mr. Alley called me on the telephone in the anteroom of the Under Secretary about twelve o'clock and said that he had just talked with Mr. Heineman over the telephone who had, however, given him little further clarifying information. Mr. Heineman said that the powers concerned were Norway, Sweden, Holland, Denmark and Belgium and that it was the intent that the King of the Belgians should make a broadcast on the evening of Wednesday of this week between seven and eight o'clock, Belgian time. I asked Mr. Alley whether Mr. Heineman had given any indication as to the nature of the appeal which would be made and he said that there had been no clarification in this respect.

Just as I was about to go in the office of Mr. Welles at twelve o'clock, I found that a UP despatch had been received over our ticker about 20 minutes before indicating that the press already has information concerning this Brussels meeting, et cetera, in fact the press seemed to have more information than had been conveyed in the telegram.

I brought the original of the appended memorandum to  
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the attention of Mr. Welles and it was our opinion that there was very little that we could do so far as the press was concerned. We discussed the remarks which the Under Secretary would make at the press conference at Noon, which are attached hereto. There seemed to be no doubt but that the press here would have a favorable reaction to this proposal.

G. S. Messersmith.

A-M: GSM: VNG