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July 22, 1950

Personal

Dear Arthur:

Preoccupied as all of us are with the world picture which has been confronting us in the last years and which has become so accentuated, and knowing your particular knowledge over a long period of more intimate developments in many aspects of the problem, I am taking the liberty of writing you a few lines.

When I was last North I left with Allen Dulles a copy of the remarks which I made at the Air War College in April of this year. As these speeches are supposed to be very confidential, I told Allen that if he wished to show it to his brother, Foster, he could do so. I was tempted at the time to ask him to turn it over to you to read, if you cared to do so, but knowing your many occupations, and as it was rather a presumption, I did not suggest this to him at the time. It occurs to me, however, that you might be interested in reading this and I would be glad if you would find the time to glance at it. Allen kept this copy to be returned to me when I saw him again the next time I went North, and I think he has it among his personal papers and you may be able to get hold of it.

These remarks which I made at the War College in April of this year are really a sequel to much more extended remarks which I made at the College in 1948. I am sure you would be even more interested in those notes than in the ones Allen has, but because of their character I do not like to send them through the mail but I will bring these notes with me next time I go North, should you care to look at them.

I have had and have very definite views as to what we should do to meet this situation, which so definitely affects our security for the near and the long range, as well as that of all decent peoples. My views seem a little drastic, but they are entirely realistic and based on very close observation and experience. If it were not that experience has been so clear in its lessons, I would not be so sure of my own thoughts and conclusions.

Arthur Dean, Esquire,
Sullivan and Cromwell,
48 Wall Street,
New York, N. Y.

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In the beginnings of 1937, when President Roosevelt and Mr. Hull insisted that I return from Austria to take a post in the Department of State, they based their insistence on what they said was their conviction that I could then be of more use in the Department than in the field in Central Europe. After about four months in the Department and sharing the preoccupations of the President and of Hull over the lack of appreciation on the part of very responsible people of what developing events had meant and meant for us, I wrote a memorandum on October 11, 1937, for the Secretary early one morning and took it in to him. He read it immediately and without saying a word, took his hat and walked out of his office, telling me he would be back shortly. He came back in an hour and told me that he had seen the President, who had immediately read the memorandum and asked him to have me change the first paragraph of the memorandum and eliminate the signature, so that it would appear to come from "a well informed observer" rather than from me. The President said to Hull that my own views on developing events in Europe and what they meant to us were so well known, and the memorandum was so well drafted, that he wanted to circulate it among the members of the Cabinet and a few other people, but that it would have more effect and value if it did not appear to come from me, as there were so many who thought of me, as they did of him, as a war monger and an alarmist. The memorandum at the time, I am told, had a very profound effect on some of our thinking and action in high places at the time. I am sending you herewith a copy, as I think it will be interesting to you in connection with these remarks which I made before the War College in April of this year.

No one could be happier than I over the prompt, adequate reaction which we have had to developments in Korea. Dannie Heineman, as you know, is a very old friend of mine and ever since 1919 we have constantly exchanged views with regard to events, and I am sending you herewith a copy of a letter which I just wrote him, in which I express to him some of my own thoughts as to events in Korea and their part in the bigger picture.

I hope you will forgive me for trying to impose some reading on you, and it is really a presumption, but it occurred to me that you might be interested in these documents.

With all good wishes to you and Polly, and looking forward to seeing you in early September,

Cordially and faithfully yours,