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Vienna, February 14, 1936.

No. 696.

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTING A STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL STATEMENT  
OF THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY PRINCE STARENBERG  
DURING HIS RECENT VISIT IN LONDON.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith as I believe  
of particular interest to the Department, a strictly confi-  
dential statement of the views expressed by Prince Starcken-  
berg on various subjects during his recent visit in London.  
This document was prepared by a person in a very responsible  
position in London on the basis of first-hand information.

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It has reached me through a responsible and valued contact in Vienna. I am transmitting it to the Department as it is in some respects one of the most interesting documents I have seen for some time, but I would request that it be guarded with most strict confidence and its circulation in the Department be restricted.

As the statement is self-explanatory and is in line with the views which I have expressed concerning Prince Starhemberg in my despatches, I shall make no comment except to state that the views expressed by Prince Starhemberg in London confirm the opinion that he is wiser and more considered person than has been thought in some circles in Europe. This statement herewith transmitted is of particular interest as it seems very probable that Prince Starhemberg will play an increasingly important rôle in Austria and in this part of the world. The views which are attributed to him in this statement are, I believe, his real opinions although his public utterances in Austria may at times be somewhat in variance therewith.

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith.

Enclosure:

1. Confidential statement.

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GSM:JFP