

(559)

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

August 21, 1935

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

Referring to your letter of August sixth and your recent despatches in connection with the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society's activities in Austria, we have been in close communication with the representative of the organization here in Washington and were very gratified when Mr. Harbeck was released from Germany. We are very grateful to you for the information you give us with regard to the activities of this association in the field. They are, of course, running counter directly to the present governments in Germany and in Austria and we have to be very careful indeed of the manner in which we support their

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

contentions. At the present writing I do not see that there is anything, for instance, that can be done about it in Austria, as the Government has a perfect right to take the measures they are taking for the suppression of the Society which, according to their ideas, is carrying on activities inimical to the interests of the country.

Thank you again for the picture you give us on this case.

Very sincerely yours,

J. C. Drum