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Vienna, July 31, 1935.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH SIR WALFORD SELBY.

*Confidential*

Sir Walford Selby came to see me late in the afternoon of June 30. He has just returned from a stay in St. Wolfgang and after some days here will be returning there. He said that he found the situation in Austria very quiet and reassuring and he saw nothing happening from within in the near future. With reference to the Danubian Pacts he said that he thought Hoare's position was quite clear and that he was interested in getting something done in this direction as soon as possible. He expressed the opinion that the importance of the Austrian position in the European picture was better understood and that more definite action could be expected from Hoare than from Simon. Whatever had been done before had usually been done as a result of insistence from him from here, and that Simon had contented himself with statements in which he had no interest and did nothing after making the statements. Hoare, however, was a different kind of man and was slow to make up his mind, but once he had done so was sure to stick.

He remarked, however, that it would probably be difficult to do anything definite with regard to the pacts until the Abyssinian question was a good deal clearer. He spoke of the tremendous repercussions on the whole situation which the actual outbreak of hostilities in Abyssinia could have. He referred to the editorial which appeared in the TIMES on July 26, entitled "Commemoration in Austria" and which he termed as very unsatisfactory and indicating the only too strong German influences evidenced in the TIMES articles and editorials.

There is no doubt that he is convinced that everything possible must be done to prevent Anschluss as it would create a situation fundamentally and definitely dangerous to England's position as it would be the first step towards definite German expansion to the Southeast with all the varied problems that this would raise for England.

George S. Messersmith.