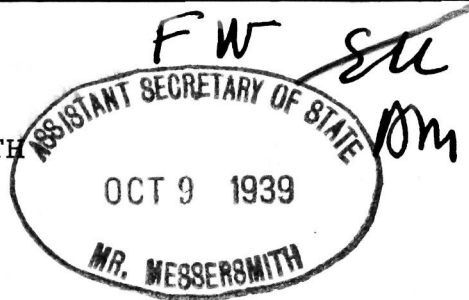


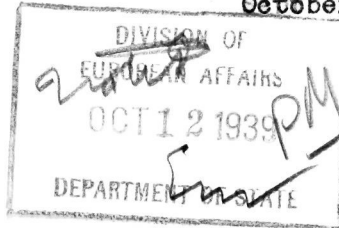
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21 WASHINGTON SQUARE NORTH



New York, New York,
October 6, 1939.

Mr. George Messersmith,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.



Dear Mr. Messersmith:

Have you seen the new propaganda sheet called Nuova Italia which has been appearing for about a month in New York under the editorship of Capt. Pietro Garoaflo, that fellow who has so much to say over station WHOM. The first number, a one page affair, printed on both sides is dated September 8, and gotten out, I believe, by the Garoaflo outfit, Cine Roma, at 1681 Broadway. I am told that it has been coming out at weekly intervals and is now four pages.

I do not think I have to tell you that Garoaflo and his friends on the Italian dailies are carrying on a terrific campaign against the neutrality revision. In the Corriere D'America of October 4, I notice that L'Ordine Figli d'Italia in America, which numbers some 600,000 members, speaks to nearly 2,000,000 when you take into account the family and other affiliations of the members, is conducting a vigorous campaign against revision. They boast that they were instrumental in blocking revision at the last session. I am surprised to find many of my friends of the opinion that neither Stalin nor Mussolini has yet taken an irrevocable stand and that both can and should be cultivated. My conviction is that in the attitude

of the Communists and the Fascist Italians in this country towards neutrality revision, we can find truer indications of the hopes and ambitions of their principals than anywhere else, in view of the obvious fact that the war is now being ~~fought~~^{decided} on the American front.

During the Spanish war I had no objection to accepting Communist support when it was offered for ends that I myself approved. I have been startled to discover that the Communists, in many, many organizations in which they have achieved great influence by their energy and ability, are not fostering any moves whatever toward revision. Many of them insist that the Party's position is clear; that they back the President. However, they are not giving any proof of this in sectors where, without being in control in any sense of the word, they have so long served as catalytic agents that by mere inaction they can block constructive efforts by their former liberal associates towards revision.

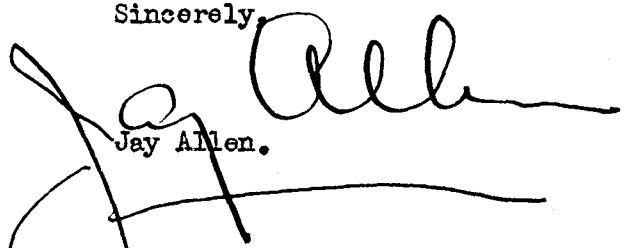
If Mussolini were neutral and hoped to remain so, he could not desire a decisive Nazi victory. His agents in this country would not be attempting to play into the Nazi hands as they are now doing. And is it necessary for me to point out as Mussolini goes, Franco goes-regardless of the hopes, illusions, assurances or what have you of the I. T. and T., National City, Hugh Gibson and the Catholic Church and others?

I am enclosing for your amusement (?) an article of mine about Mr. Gibson's recent radio effort. I have long liked Mr. Gibson personally. I was one of the few Americans at the Disarmament Con-

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ference who did. For years I used to visit him in Brussels and always found him helpful, able and wholly a credit to the service abroad. In Geneva I began to wonder whether he hadn't developed a strain of cynicism in his nature. Naturally I am simply sending this piece to you for your inspection, in an idle moment, if you have any such, and do not expect you to approve of my sentiments.

Sincerely,



Jay Allen.

P.S. I long admired the position of Mundelein. His New World was a joy to liberal American Catholics (born one, I am one no longer). There was a remarkable front page column in the New World called The Big Broadcast which said, among other things, that certain priests had lied about Spain. I note that several weeks before the Cardinal's death The Big Broadcast column ^{was not} ~~no longer~~ appeared.