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SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

July 9, 1935

My dear Mr. Messersmith:

Thank you very much indeed for the good wishes you sent me in your letter of June eighteenth on my taking over my new post. I am keen about it and am looking forward to the work with the greatest of interest. I will be exceedingly grateful if you will continue to write me in the same manner that you wrote Moffat, as these sidelights are very helpful in forming a picture of what is going on, and Mr. Phillips and I will continue to pass each other's letters back and forth, just as he did with Moffat.

I have not yet seen your despatch No. 458 of June 17, with regard to the Oberlander Trust, but I shall look forward to it, as it must be in the Department by now.

We have been very much occupied during this recent period with the developments in Ethiopia and between that question and my taking over my new duties, I have been rather treading the mill recently. To top it off we are now having a visit from Mr. Lyons, the Prime Minister of Australia, but as he is leaving this afternoon I expect to see my way out within a very short time.

We were extremely interested in your comprehensive sketch of Von Papen. Of course, it

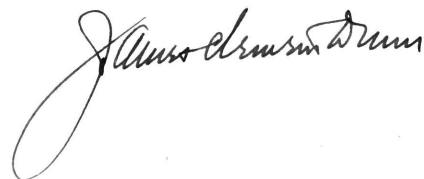
The Honorable
George S. Messersmith,
American Minister,
Vienna.

always seemed to my mind silly for anyone to try to assume a position which is not within the regularly constituted diplomatic procedure. He may fool himself for a while by assuming certain postures, but everyone who knows the game knows perfectly well that he has no right to exaggerate claims and he eventually has to come down to earth. I was interested in meeting him and his wife at a reception I attended while in Vienna given by the Chancellor. I also met practically all of the important people in the Government circles there. It is so helpful actually to see some of the people whose activities we are dealing with, as it is so much easier to visualize their characters and attitudes.

I was terribly disappointed that you were not in Vienna while we were there or that I did not have an opportunity to see you en route, but it did not seem possible to arrange it according to my schedule. I hope it will not be too long before you are coming over and we will have a good get-together then. In the meantime, do call on me if I can be of any assistance at all in your work, and I shall look forward with pleasure to hearing your views on the situation there.

With my kindest regards to Mrs. Messersmith and yourself,

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James Thomson Drum". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.