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October 6, 1939.

Personal

Dear Hugh:

Thanks very much for your letter of September 11 which I have read with interest. We are making progress on the consolidation plans and are sending individual instructions to the various offices. So far as France is concerned, I feel there is little constructive we can do for the present, and now that the Ambassador has found it necessary to recommend that our establishment be moved out of Paris and that the different sections will have to be in different places, it is, of course, impossible for us to make any plans for the immediate future. There is no use setting up any kind of organization at this time or even definitely determining what it will be on a normal basis until we are in a better position to judge.

is cancelled

Fullerton, Hugh S.

We must, of course, continue certain commercial and economic reporting activities. I believe that commodity reporting will for the time being lose most of its value from the belligerent countries. There is a certain amount of it which will have to be kept up. I am going to ask Commerce to try to be as specific as it possibly can with regard to the commodity reporting which it believes will be useful from France, England and Germany at this time. Certainly a good part of it would drop out for obvious reasons.

So far as the economic and financial reporting are concerned, they are, of course, in a different category and will, of course, continue very important, but they are of themselves an entirely different problem from commodity reporting.

We

Hugh S. Fullerton, Esquire,
 American Consul,
 Paris, France.

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We are, of course, hopeful that as much trade can be maintained between the two countries as possible. We hope that the French will be able to continue to export to us in view of the fact that their imports from us will considerably increase. My own feeling is that the Treasury Attaché will be able to do little or nothing that is useful in the belligerent countries but that is another matter and one which we cannot control. The unfortunate thing, of course, is that some of the officials in Treasury will be inclined to keep these people over there whether they can do anything useful or not and I think the tendency of the Treasury Attaché in Paris will be to keep as many of his people there as possible. That is Treasury's problem and not our own.

I realize that you will be functioning under great difficulties but I need not tell you that we all appreciate the way you people are carrying on over there. Our men on the whole have responded wonderfully well in the field and it is a great encouragement to us here where I need not tell you our burdens also are very heavy. I have no private life left and Sundays are just like any other day. The constant long hours are wearing and while we do not have the imminence of bombs from the air, we have all sorts of explosive material on which we sit here all the time. We get very good reports from people as to the way our establishment has been functioning.

This is just a hurried word for you will realize that correspondence for the time being is extraordinarily difficult. I always appreciate hearing from you and hope you will continue to write me when you can.

Very sincerely yours,

A-M: GSM: VNG