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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
A-M

February 18, 1938.

In an address made by A. W. Hanson, entitled, "Europe's Crucial Hour", and which as a representative of the Young Men's Christian Associations he has been giving in various parts of the West and Southwest, he made the following statement in the opening paragraphs:

"My most illuminating hour last summer was with our American Minister to one of these troubled states: an official who had served most ably in other posts in Europe. I quickly discovered in him a man of high ideals, but profoundly discouraged by the present state of things. I listened eagerly to his clear and convincing analysis; his concluding words burned themselves into my mind: 'Versailles is dead! The League is dead! Locarno is dead! The Little Entente is moribund! I see little hope!' 'But, Mr. Minister,' I hastily broke in, 'does not the German-Austrian accord, just signed, ease the tension?' 'Hitler promises,' he answered soberly, 'to cease interfering in Austria, and Mussolini gives the accord his blessing. It postpones war ten or twelve months. But I find no solace in that, for it will be all the more disastrous when it does come.'

"In the light of such testimony one must admit that the present moment is, indeed, crucial."