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Vienna, August 1, 1935.

Dear Mr. Phillips:

I want to send you just a word to say that everything is developing quietly here in Austria and that there is nothing of significance to report. The Chancellor has gone to St. Gilgen for a few days rest and the Foreign Minister has been out of town for two weeks on his estate in Styria and will not be returning for some days more. Everybody is taking advantage of the good weather, and Austria is full of tourists. They are going to have by far the best tourist season for years and it will help the internal situation a lot.

Most of my colleagues are, like myself, remaining in Vienna or in Austria. While there is no concern with respect to developments in Austria for the near future, everyone is concerned with what may develop out of the Abyssinian question and the repercussions which it may have here and generally. The extraordinary developments in Germany are continuing, but no one yet seems to know just what they mean, but they are naturally not such as to ease the situation here.

I will not go into the Abyssinian question and all of its implications because you have better information than I. There is some optimism here that a formula will be reached at Geneva today which will give another month's breathing space and that in that period an arrangement may be arrived at which will avoid actual conflict. I need not tell you what real and well based fears there exist everywhere over here, except in Germany, as to what might develop through and out of an actual outbreak of hostilities in Abyssinia.

The French and Italians are apparently working rather hard on drafts of the proposed Danubian Pacts, but what I have seen so far is too vague to write you about it. I think in the next few weeks there will be quite active efforts to get these pacts into shape so as to prepare for a meeting, and from what I can learn there is good reason to believe that England places a greater value than before on these pacts.

The Honorable
William Phillips,
Under Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

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This, of course, is necessary if anything worthwhile is to be done. I believe these pacts are extremely important as one of the means of restraining German expansionist ambitions and of avoiding conflict over here.

I hope to write you more definitely in the near future. I do hope that you will get a good holiday and will be able to avoid the heat of Washington at least for a part of the summer.

With all good wishes,

Cordially yours,

George S. Messersmith.