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CONFIDENTIAL

December 20, 1939.

Mr. Messersmith:

I share your correspondent's view that "until Germany learns that war is a bad business, there will be no peace in the world". The same goes for some other countries, especially for Japan.

With regard to Lord Davis Davies' report: -- If I remember my European history correctly, the country which we know as Germany was created in the third quarter of the nineteenth century by processes employed by Prussia, under the guidance of Bismarck, combining use of armed force and of threats of force with diplomatic persuasion and pressures: there was not a spontaneous coalescing of the various German states. The Prussians were and they have continued to be the leading "militarists" among the German peoples and they have indoctrinated the other German peoples with confidence in policies of "Blood and Iron". I believe that modern Germany, a welded-together state composed of several states, could be broken up; that Central Europe could be made again to resemble what it was before 1860 (I deliberately say 1860 rather than 1870); and that then, if Prussia could be prevented from again embarking upon a Bismarckian course, the German peoples might develop again into good-neighborly political entities.