

1272

A-M

August 21, 1939.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

The Under Secretary:

A member of the firm of Auchincloss, Alley & Duncan in New York called me on the telephone at 11:40 this morning and said that he had received from Mr. D. N. Heineman of Brussels the following telegram:

"Please convey the following to Messersmith without delay. At the instigation of King Leopold several European countries not directly involved in the actual European difficulties will call a meeting of pacific conciliation next Wednesday. This step may possibly contribute to avoid the catastrophe which is menacing the world. To obtain the desired result it is indispensable to have the support and collaboration of the press of the United States. I am persuaded that in the interest of the entire world the White House will vigilantly watch any support unreservedly and enthusiastically given by the American press of the initiative of King Leopold. To obtain the desired effect the composite reaction of the American press should not be directed against either the axis or the democracies. This telegram should not be given to the American press so as to avoid the possibility of publishing the present information before it is released by the Belgian Government to the Belgian press. Therefore a great deal of discretion is necessary. The Belgian Embassy should not be informed of the present communication."

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G.S.M.

A-M; GSM; VNG