

485

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

February 26, 1935

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I have various letters from you to acknowledge and for which to thank you. You may be sure that they are all appreciated and have been read by those of us in the Department who are following minutely the trend of affairs in your part of the world. Your letters continue to be helpful and enlightening.

At the moment the Secretary is at Useppa Island, Florida, for a week's much needed rest, and the President is at Hyde Park for the same reason. In the meantime the Congressional pot boils, and there is no telling how some of the Administration's domestic plans are going to turn out. Meanwhile we are trying to put through a trade agreement

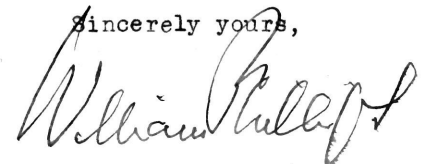
The Honorable  
George S. Messersmith,  
American Minister,  
Vienna.

with Belgium, - an exceedingly difficult thing to do in the absence of both the President and the Secretary, and yet something which has to be done, if done at all, within the next day or two. You can well imagine the pressure which registers at the White House against any reduction in tariff, no matter how infinitesimal. The President is courageous, but it is not fair to ask him to stand too much of this sort of thing. Yet we cannot secure any benefits without giving some in return. As a matter of fact the whole trade agreement policy is on the brink, but I hope we shall be able to pull it through even though we have to play on minor key.

The morning press announces the forthcoming visit of Simon to Berlin, the results of which will be of extreme interest, and we shall all be glad of your reactions after the event.

With best wishes to you and Mrs. Messersmith,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William Phillips". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "William Phillips".