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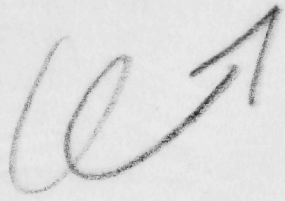
EMERGENCY
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7th April, 1939.

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PERSONAL

The Hon. George S. Messersmith,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Department of State,
WASHINGTON D.C.

Dear Friend, 

I thank you for your letter of the 16th March and I shall reply to it at greater length in a few days after I return from a short Easter holiday which I am taking at the Belgian seaside from to-night.

These are anxious days, and I am afraid I must again postpone my proposed visit to the States, although I should only be too pleased to sail at once. Apart from the political situation there are other reasons that keep me here. Mr. Richard, one of our Managing Directors, was appointed a Minister in the Pierlot Government so he cannot give us any assistance for the time being and I have to fill the gap. On the other hand Mr. Spicrael, our other Managing Director must sail for the States and Canada on the 15th April and will not be back before the 15th May. So I certainly cannot go over to America before then. As to Mr. Richard, I hope the new Government will be formed within a few days and that he will then be able to return to us.

I have just received a letter from Dr. Fritz Elsas, the former Burgomaster of Berlin and former Chairman of the Berlin Light & Power Company. As a non-Aryan, he had to resign from all his positions. He says he now proposes to go to the States and has an emigration number. But it will last years before he gets a visa and he asks me whether I could do anything to try to accelerate matters. I told him I would write you but gave him very little hope. Could you let me know whether it is at all possible to hasten matters? Please excuse my troubling you with this but knowing Elsas as being a most valuable man I feel it is my duty to mention his case to you.

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I have managed to get a number of these unfortunate people out of Germany. Some to Belgium, some to England, some to South America. I have quite a lot of them at present residing in the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg at my expense, with permission to stay from 6 months to two years according to cases. I have to find ways and means for them to proceed to other countries, after these periods have expired, where they will be able to stay definitively. And it is indeed a very hard job to find a solution to this problem as most countries have practically closed their doors to such immigration. In the meantime I have to support several hundreds of persons. But I do not complain about this. So long as I am able to do it, I do it with pleasure.

Max Warburg came to see me yesterday. In spite of his 72 years he is still very active. His son has become an American citizen and he himself also hopes to become one within few years.

I have just written a letter to a good friend of mine in London who was at one time a Cabinet Minister and is still in close touch with Mr. Chamberlain and Lord Halifax. I made the following statement in that letter: "So long as the present German Regime lasts there will be no peace in the world. It is quite useless to come to any agreement with them for they will not honour either agreement or promise a minute longer than it suits their purpose. On the other hand any agreement that may be signed will only strengthen their position."

As you know the British are now regularly broadcasting news in German so that the people there may have an idea of what is really going on in the world. And they are all listening in. It will interest you to know that I was originally responsible for this idea. In fact, when we were on the verge of war last September I telephoned to two of the members of the French Government, and also to London, and I told them that I thought

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steps should be taken immediately to broadcast news in German so that the people over there should know what was happening, that nobody wanted war, etc. etc.

War did not break out then but they started at once to broadcast from France and England and it has been kept up ever since. The Zürcher Zeitung said that the Propaganda Department in Berlin was very much annoyed about this and in one of his speeches Hitler even said that if it continued he would do the same from his side.

Cordially yours,

