Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have just received the attached memorandum from Steve Early. I am very much afraid—particularly if he knows that this was given to me by Steve Early—that Joe Kennedy will be very much incensed if I send it to him. I haven't the slightest doubt that he is already fully informed of what the "Week" has published. Consequently, my preference would be to do nothing about it. I shall appreciate it if you will let me know whether you agree.

[Signature]

I agree.

[Signature]
MEMORANDUM FOR SUMNER WELLES:

Dear Sumner:

This photostatic copy of a section of the Foreign Observer, dated New York City, June 1, 1939, may be of possible interest to you. More particularly, however, I think Ambassador Kennedy should know about it as a matter of information.

STEPHEN BURLEY
Secretary to the President

Enclosure.
SIGN OF HOPE

Best indication this week of peace for Europe, for a while at any rate, was the announcement from The Hague revoking the State of Alarm orders, a prelude to general mobilization. The Dutch, however, who certainly would be among the first to suffer if Hitler attacked in the West, still maintained a rigid guard over their frontier bridges and roads, and the dynamite charges to blow up the dikes were left intact.

Further food for thought was tossed at Hitler by the aviation editor of the Sunday Times of London with the announcement that Britain's Royal Air Force is now six months ahead of schedule, with 1,000 planes being turned out each month. This means that English plane construction can turn out between 35,000 and 40,000 ships for a war, and if as many as 30 planes are shot down a day, Britain can still keep ahead of any foe in the air. It also was announced that a new fast plane, the Marine Spitfire, has been developed which can travel on an average of 365 m.p.h., far exceeding anything in the German or Italian air corps. These planes are equipped with eight machine guns. A second fighting plane known as the Hawker Hurricane has been developed which can average 330 m.p.h.

At the same time, Major General Sir Frederick Maurice, addressing 1,000 delegates of the British Legion, bluntly warned Germany not to repeat the mistakes made by Kaiser Wilhelm and his war-lords in 1914. "Let there be no mistake, if our liberties are threatened, we will fight for them," he said.

CZECH "REVOLT" HINTED

More ominous, however, was a movement reported from Warsaw where a large group of exiled Czechs were forming a Czech Legion under General Lev Prchala, former Minister of the Interior of the Carpatho-Ukraine, as a direct threat to Hitler. Claiming that Germany had broken all promises to Moravia and Bohemia, General Prchala warned that the Czechs were almost at the point of an open rebellion. What made this
The anti-Comintern pact is intended for the destruction of the Comintern, and not for anything else. Under the pressure of this agreement, however, Soviet Russia has become inactive, if temporarily, and the antagonism between the totalitarian States and the democracies has come to the fore. But that does not alter the fact that Soviet Russia remains Japan's potential enemy. We must therefore direct the anti-Comintern pact against her, as hitherto. At the same time, we must see that the Soviet does not make political capital out of the friction we are likely to have with Britain, America and France over the China question. Since the Munich Pact, the Soviet has been endeavoring to check Britain and France by flirting with Germany and Italy and scheming to influence the major democracies to make things unpleasant for Japan. In the light of the prevailing world situation, Japan must adopt judicious measures to keep Soviet Russia out of mischief."

"Mystery of Mr. Kennedy"

While United States Ambassador William Bullitt was declaring at Neuilly the first week of the month that a new world war is not inevitable, and saying that Americans killed in the last war had not died in vain because they "prevented the formation of a world which could have become more vile than that in which we live now" the American Ambassador to the Court of St. James was curiously spot-lighted by the privately circulated and well-informed Week of London:

London (and perhaps Washington) was becoming increasingly puzzled this week by the 'Mystery of Mr. Kennedy'--and still more by the mystery of why Mr. Roosevelt maintains Mr. Kennedy in the post of Ambassador to Great Britain. His role has been, and still is, of very much greater importance in its effects on both sides of the Atlantic than the general public supposes. Before his recent trip to Washington, Mr. Kennedy was already well known in both capitals as an "appeaser" of the first water. He was the principal apologist for Mr. Chamberlain in Washington, and at the same time was known to be informing Mr. Chamberlain that in reality American opinion--serious American opinion--so far from being hostile to Munichism, was really supporting it and that therefore Mr. Chamberlain did not really need to worry about the apparent outbursts of indignation from the other side, regardless of the quarter from which they came.

Mr. Kennedy, whose relations with certain representatives of General Franco were common knowledge, played a particularly important part in the politics of "Non-Intervention" and was actively engaged in supporting, from his strategically strong position, the policy which resulted in the great break through of the Axis in Spain. His trip to Washington was, as everyone expected, the occasion of a very severe dressing down by the President. But the mystery began when Mr. Kennedy, instead of being sent on a holiday, after all returned to London as Ambassador. For, since his return, his activities have become more remarkable than ever. He has, for instance, gone to the length of informing members of the British Government that they 'need not worry' about anything that Mr. Roosevelt may say, for the reason that (1) "It will be my friends that are in the White House in 1940." (2) "Roosevelt is run by the Jews and all the anti-Fascist sentiment in the United States is really created by the Jews, who run the press".

The bland assurance with which Mr. Kennedy circulates these staggering opinions about the Government which he is, after all, supposed to represent, have occasioned some considerable eyebrow-lifting even among those--in the "appeasement" camp--who find them useful. There have, in fact, been several occasions during the past three or four weeks on which the opinions of the United States Ambassador have been not merely quoted but decisively used at British Cabinet meetings, when the suggestion has been made that continued signs of "appeasement" and, above all, the Federation of British Industries Agreement with the German Government, are producing a disastrous effect on the other side of the Atlantic. To those who try to suggest that the American Ambassador--a wealthy Catholic speculator--is probably not representative at all of American opinion, and is playing a game of his own, the retort is made: if that is so, why does he remain Ambassador?