

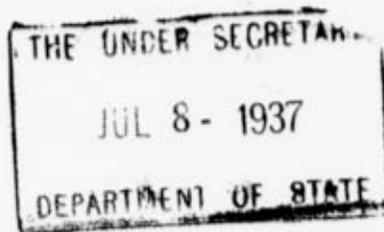
Summer Welles Papers
Box 149 Folder 9
Major Correspondence
Roosevelt, Franklin June-Aug 1937

Personal file

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE UNDER SECRETARY

I discussed this personally with the President, and in accordance with his desire the circular instruction of July 24 was issued. - R



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 8, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

Before I act on this, will you please let me know what public addresses creating irritation have been made? Have you the copy of Ambassador Bingham's speech? Perhaps when I come to read it in toto, it may seem to me a pretty good thing to have done.

F. D. R.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

July 7, 1937

My dear Mr. President:

During recent weeks some of our Ambassadors and Ministers abroad have made public addresses which, while thoroughly well intentioned, have nevertheless given rise to a considerable amount of irritation on the part of foreign governments and have been the cause of misunderstanding by the press both at home and abroad.

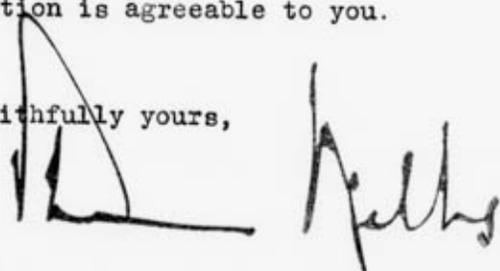
The Secretary and I feel that a circular instruction of the character attached hereto should be sent as a precautionary measure to our Missions in Europe and in some other parts of the world. Before taking this action, I should like to have your approval of the step which it is proposed to take. Will you let me know if the proposed instruction is agreeable to you.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

The President

The White House.

The block contains two handwritten signatures. The first is a large, stylized signature, likely of the Secretary of State, Cordell Hull, which is written over the typed name 'Faithfully yours,'. The second signature is smaller and appears to be 'Hull' written in a cursive hand.

1-128
PREPARING OFFICE
INDICATE WHETHER

TELEGRAM SENT

1-128
TO BE TRANSMITTED
CONFIDENTIAL CODE
NONCONFIDENTIAL CODE
PARTIAL
PLAIN

Department
OR
0

Department of State

Washington,
July 7, 1937.

CIRCULAR TELEGRAM

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

A state of tension and uncertainty exists at present in the sphere of international relations which evidently requires the observance, in the preparation of the public utterances of American representatives abroad, of the utmost caution and most scrupulous care.

Statements made in public which do not minutely conform at any given time with the attitude of this Government may lead to misunderstanding and further aggravate a situation which demands, on the part of everyone, discretion, prudence and calm.

You are therefore requested henceforth to communicate to the Department in advance for approval any speech or statement or portion of speech or statement which you propose to make in public or to communicate to the press should such speech or statement bear upon the foreign policies of this Government or of other governments and should they in any way at all appear to be open to misinterpretation or to exception by foreign governments.

Eu:JCD:RI
U:SW:MW

d by

erator M., 19.....

July 7, 1937

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