NEUTRALITY
PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR CORDELL HILL

June 20, 1937

C.F.

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT OR HITLER OR THE GERMAN GOVERNMENTS

FOR MANY REASONS I THINK THAT IF MUSOLINI OR THE

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT OR HITLER OR THE GERMAN GOVERNMENTS

HAVE MADE OR MAKE ANY OFFICIAL ADMISSIONS OR STATEMENTS

THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT ARMED FORCES ARE ACTUALLY TAKING

PART IN THE FIGHTING IN SPAIN ON THE SIDE OF FRANCE OR

ARE ENGAGING IN THE SPANISH WAR, THEN IN SUCH CASES WE

SHALL HAVE TO ACT UNDER THE NEUTRALITY ACT.

I am thinking about precedents and the future. It

has been our contention that war exists if the govern-

ment armed forces of any nation under the territory

of another nation are engaged in fighting.

Do not think we can compound a ridiculous situa-
tion if after the right is estabished' Great Britain

and France continue to assert solemnly that they

have no proof of Italian or German participation in

the Spanish war.

Don't you think we should cable Phillips and Dodd

to ask for categorical answers? According to some of

the newspapers, Mussolini has personally directed

and Hitler has also made the same kind of state-

ment.

P. D. R.

Park Thursday or Friday?

Will you check all this and telephone me at Rye?

FOREIGN