

● PSF

Belgium

1933-37

Brussels, 5th of July 1933.



Dear Mr. President,

Mr. Morris, the distinguished new American Ambassador, handed me your most courteous letter and I was delighted to hear from you personally.

I recollect also with great pleasure the two occasions on which the Queen and I met you at La Panne and New York. It was extremely kind of you to have a special thought

for my son and my daughter, they
are both, and we also, quite flourishing
and I trust it is the same with you,
Mrs. Roosevelt and your children.

With many of my compatriots, I am
following and viewing with the
greatest hope the efforts with which
you are endeavouring to pull the
world out of the chaos in which
it seems at present still plunged, more
so that I quite appreciate the
difficulties with which you have,

without doubt, to contend in your
own country.

Thanking you heartily for your
cordial message, the Queen and I
send you our best greetings and I
remain, dear Mr. President

Yours very sincerely

Albert

The President of the United States
of America

July 10
[1933]

Dear Mr President:

Enclosed herewith
is a sealed letter from
His Majesty King Albert,
which he asked me to
transmit to you. It is
no doubt an answer to
the letter you wrote to him
and which I had the honor
to deliver to him in person.

because in writing me
asking that I forward
to you the enclosed letter,
His Majesty says: "I was
deeply touched by the very
cordial way in which he
wrote me".

Faithfully Yours
Dave L. Morris,

To The President
of the United States

AMERICAN EMBASSY
BRUSSELS

Recommandée

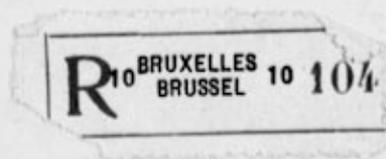


Miss Marguerite Le Hand,

The White House,

Washington, D. C.,

U. S. A.





Belgium - 1933

Brussels, July 10, 1933.

My dear Miss Le Hand,

Herewith enclosed you will find a personal letter from me to the President, forwarding a personal letter written by his own hand from His Majesty King Albert to the President of the United States, which please deliver to him as soon as possible.

I have acknowledged to His Majesty the receipt of this letter by me and the fact that I would immediately transmit it to the President. Will you please let me know that you have received and delivered it to the President, and also if the President wishes to send any answer in any form through me to His Majesty?

Judging by the general unanimity of

Miss Marguerite Le Hand,

The White House,

Washington, D. C.

dislike by the foreign press of our present policy in the United States, I should infer that we are doing just the right thing for ourselves. I hope the personal letters I have written to the President in regard to the London Conference, etc., have been of service to him.

With kind regards to all of you, I am

Very sincerely yours,

David L. Morris,

Enclosure.

Belgium

Brussels, Belgium
September 19, 1933

My dear Franklin:

This letter is personal and confidential. It ventures to suggest a possible solution to one of your many problems. If you can properly do so, I should greatly appreciate receiving either by cable or letter an indication of your general reaction to the idea offered.

In personal letters I have written of the mortification and regret expressed to me privately by various Belgian leaders at their country not having met its American debt payments, how Belgians were an honest people in heart and fact, and that they felt that if some way could be found to liquidate their American obligations they would be happy to make any sacrifices politically and socially possible. You know my answer has always been that I have no authority officially to discuss debts and that was a matter you reserved to yourself, and indeed Congress was the final authority.

A family dinner, including the ladies, was recently given by Mr. Paul van Zeeland, the "Directeur de la Banque Nationale de Belgique," in his country home and my Bride, Jack Gade and I met there Count de Broqueville who is the Prime Minister in the Government here. The four of us men after dinner talked over the situation along the lines just indicated and to make a long story short, concluded that if informally and unofficially it could be ascertained that you would recommend the acceptance of the following plan in broad outline and principle, the Belgians believed it could be presented to you officially very soon and in about any form you might indicate, namely:

1. Belgium would pursue these unofficial negotiations with us in strict secrecy, without informing any other power, including France.
2. Belgium would first of all acknowledge in principle her obligation to America.
3. Belgium feels very strongly her right to a privileged position in the consideration of her pre-armistice debt, and that she should receive special treatment in our consideration of it to which no other power is entitled.
4. The post-armistice debt itself consists of two portions, capital and interest. Owing to the present crisis, the Belgians feel that

the interest could and should be cancelled.

In regard to the capital, this would be paid and in ninety-nine equal instalments instead of the fifty-six agreed upon in the present Belgian debt settlement.

5. In order to meet the President's wishes and contribute to world credit expansion, the Belgians suggest the following arrangement;

I. The actual value of the ninety-nine annuities would be calculated.

II. The sum (called "n") would at once be paid the United States in the following manner:

a. Twenty per cent in gold

b. Twenty per cent in silver, calculated at 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ in its relation to gold

c. Sixty per cent in Belgian Government Treasury notes payable in installments to be agreed upon and paid in to a trust fund held by the B. I. S. These notes would serve as the basis of a flotation of one or several international loans, the proceeds of which would be paid to the U. S. A.

6. The previous suggestions lend themselves to many combinations of figures. They could and should result in a total actual debt reduction of about 70 per cent, this figure varying according to what may be agreed upon in the actual negotiations.

7. It must be understood that no power should receive more favorable treatment in regard to the post armistice debt than Belgium, but if such should be the case, Belgium would receive proportional consideration.

It was believed the President could for various reasons with propriety recommend to Congress such a settlement and particularly because of the present stalemate. It was further believed that Congress would realize how little Belgium could or would pay. She has just been forced to float an internal loan of one and a half billion francs largely so as to balance past budgets, supply work for unemployed and repay foreign short-term maturities. It was believed that a large cash payment to the U. S. A. would aid in balancing its budget. From the Belgian point of view nothing more quickly could turn strained relations into friendly ones than settling the debt once and for all. Increases in our mutual trade would naturally result. We could probably tie into the settlement a Belgian promise not to raise tariffs against American products nor to damage our commercial interests by quota regulations, matters which now are of perplexing concern to us in the Embassy and Consulate.

The Belgians believed lastly that their government could with equal propriety recommend the settlement for reasons just as cogent. It should, however, be recognized that the Prime Minister has as yet not consulted any

of the members of his Cabinet.

Particular emphasis was laid upon the urgent necessity to keep absolutely confidential, informal and personal among you and those previously mentioned the suggestions herein made. Should our informal talk become known and merely result in failure, it would only make all the more difficult, if not impossible, any future satisfactory negotiations.

If you are at all in sympathy with the plan, please let me know how you wish the next step taken. Of course, Mr. Van Zeeland with or without Jack Gade could at any time cross and call at the White House without causing comment.

Yours as ever,

Dave G. Hoover,

To the Hon.

*Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Washington, D. C.*

c o p y

September 27, 1933.

The President,
Hyde Park,
New York.

Dear Mr. President:

You suggested that I put in writing the plan I proposed to you as to debt settlements.

It is somewhat along the line that you yourself expressed to me, but it is different in mechanics. I base it on the assumption that most governments would like to pay if a possible method could be devised; one not too onerous.

I mentioned to you that Dave Hennen Morris had asked me to tell you of his conversation with the King of Belgium who expressed a desire to find a way out. I believe France would not be averse though I have not specifically touched on the subject with any French authority. My opinion is based on impression. I have not any available information as to maturities or amounts of United States bonds outstanding so I cannot be very specific, nor can I make any detailed plan as I am quite in the dark as to what the actual computations might show if the settlement was effected on this basis. Of course, in the State Department there are many men who have specialized on this problem and their judgment of the mathematical side of the matter will be of the greatest importance.

The general plan is as follows:

Extend the period of completion of payment of foreign debts to one hundred years. From each government ask for serial bonds or notes, maturing 1% a year at a low rate of interest, say 2½%. Issue, by refunding our own bonds at 2½% tax exempt, serial bonds or notes, each of our own issues to mature thirty or sixty days after the foreign bonds due date. Funds received from the foreign maturities would pay our own maturing obligations. Each foreign bond maturity would have a United States bond maturity practically coinciding.

The plan would set up assets against our present United States maturities to the amount of over ten billion dollars and would ultimately reduce our national debt by that amount.

The loss to our Government would be the difference made by the tax exempt clause in the refunded bonds, but at the present low interest rates, there would be an economy against rates now being offered, say on the Fourth Liberty 4½s for instance. Perhaps the administration might be willing to make these bonds eligible for payment of estate taxes at par, if held continuously until at least one year prior to death of decedent.

Yours faithfully (signed)

JESSE ISIDOR STRAUS

TELEGRAM

R A D I O

The White House
Washington

2SDMZWU JM Radio via SD

Feb. 24, 1934.

Bruxelles via RCA

ETAT GHR President Roosevelt,
Washington.

I thank you, Mr. President and Mrs. Roosevelt, for
your kind expressions of sympathy in my terrible sorrow,
and would ask you to convey my grateful thanks to the
Government and people of the United States.

Elisabeth.

(Belgium)



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Brussels, Belgium
March 1, 1934

*Missy
Haley Allen
F.O.P.*

*Y. L. -
Belgium*

Dear Miss LeHand:

I am writing you informally thinking that perhaps you might care to pass on to the President at an appropriate moment some of the following items:

I have just returned from Paris where I spent three days with the Ambassador there. I am sure that Mr. Straus is getting better month by month and that by next summer he should be more like his old self again. The doctors pronounce him cured and while this does not always convince the patient, I think there is no doubt but that he will soon feel the benefits of his treatment. He is greatly enjoying his post and I think largely because of the success he is making there. Everybody admires him and feels that he has ability, courage and personality.

The death of King Albert here was a shock to us all. He was beloved, admired and trusted. The country is rallying around his son and I am convinced that for the next three to six months King Leopold will have the country with him. He is a son worthy of his illustrious parents and I do not look for any social or political upsets here in the near future.

There is no crown in Belgium, so there is no coronation. They call it taking the oath and the ceremony that occurred is known as the inauguration. It took place last week and was a most beautiful and thrilling occasion, fully testifying to the unanimous support of the King by all political classes. There were only three exceptions among the Deputies and these were Communists, but even they were awed by the enthusiasm of everyone else.

The telegram from the President was printed in all the papers and met with unanimous approval. In his name and in response to the President's request, I sent a large wreath consisting mainly of orchids. I attended to this personally and I am sure the President would have been satisfied as to the choice could he have seen it.

I deeply appreciate the President's appointing me special Ambassador for the occasion and I know that this gesture was also appreciated by the Foreign Office and members of the Royal Family.

I was asked to broadcast to America an appreciation of King Albert, which I took great pleasure in doing and have sent a

copy of my address to the State Department.

Mr. Straus and I discussed the debt situation in our respective countries and we both feel that they are beginning to appreciate that it is up to them to find some kind of formula for repayment, so I think I shall encourage my people here to use their imagination along these lines.

In view of the great success which Mrs. Morris has made in Brussels and the way that everyone has taken her to their hearts and the resultant benefit which accrues to the Ambassador, I am sure that the President in his choice of his representative in Belgium was very wise and farsighted! Tell him that I intuitively confirmed his judgment over forty years ago.

It was interesting to hear everything that Ambassador Bullitt had to tell us about the situation in Washington as our reports over here are very meager and misleading.

Will you tell the President that we are enjoying our stay here immensely and both feeling remarkably well. If there is anything in the world we can do officially or personally, I am always at his command.

I hope the world is treating you kindly and that you are not overworking the way everyone is doing in Washington. Will you please give my affectionate greetings to the President and Mrs. Roosevelt.

Sincerely yours,



Miss Marguerite LeHand
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

THE NEUTRALITY OF BELGIUM BEFORE THE WAR.

Although, in the early days of the World War, the German Chancellor, Bethmann-Hollweg, frankly admitted the innocence of Belgium, the German propogandists soon afterwards invented an excuse for the violation of a neutral country by claiming that Belgium had violated her own neutral obligations before the German forces crossed her frontiers.

This legend, while it received but little credence outside Germany, was eagerly accepted and believed by the German people, but more careful study and research since the end of the war has led a number of their own publicists and scholars to revise their opinions and to admit that the accusation is without foundation.

One of the most recent articles on the subject appears in the March 1934 number of the "Berliner Monatshefte" over the signature of Dr. von Wegerer, a distinguished German historian who has been generally considered as antagonistic to Belgium. After a careful study of the recently published Russian diplomatic correspondence (1) of the period Dr. von Wegerer has written a complete vindication of Belgium which should be convincing even to his own fellow-countrymen who may be reluctant to believe in the correctness of Belgium's attitude in 1914.

The following is a resumé of Dr. von Wegerer's article:

Documents now published for the first time, especially the correspondence of Koudacheff, Russian Minister at Brussels, clarify the attitude of Belgium.

(1) "The International Relations under Czarism", German edition by Otto HOETSCH, First Serie: Year 1914-the opening of hostilities, 5th part, July 25th to August 4th, 1924. Reimar Helbing - Berlin 1934.

On July 27th (1914) Koudacheff announced to Sazonov (Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs) that the Government of the King of the Belgians had decided to defend energetically the neutrality of Belgium. On the following day, he wrote that the Belgian Cabinet, meeting under the presidency of the King, had discussed the tactics to be employed in the event of the violation of the frontiers of the Kingdom by either of the belligerents. According to Koudacheff, the Belgians wished to find themselves, at the end of the campaign, on the side of the victor. Although a German victory was expected, the Belgian troops were to give battle to the Germans if they should cross the frontiers of the Kingdom. The French Minister at Brussels Monsieur Klobukowski, had informed him (Koudacheff) that he had already received special instructions in case war should break out, adding that he was placing secret agents along the Belgian-German frontier who would telephone him of the first appearance of the German vanguard and of their entry into Belgium.

On July 30th, Maier, Russian Military Attaché at Brussels, informed the Russian Staff that the three youngest classes of Belgian reservists had been called, that trains were held in readiness for the transportation of troops behind the Liège-Namur line, and that the Commandant at Liège had received authorization to mobilize the garrison in case of need. Maier added that a part of the cavalry were to be sent to the French frontier.

Proof that Belgium had not in 1914, by secret arrangements, sided prematurely with France or England, is furnished by a number of communications under date of August 3rd. and 4th. For example, on August 3rd., Isvolsky told Sazonov that Belgium had informed

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France that she would not request aid from the guaranteeing Powers and that she would not ask France for military support.

On the same day Koudacheff informed the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs that the question of an appeal to the protecting Powers had been discussed and that the French Minister had officially asked the Belgian Government whether, in the event of the violation of her neutrality, Belgium would solicit the assistance of the guaranteeing Powers; the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs had thanked him, telling him at the same time that Belgium was counting upon her own means of self-defense but that, nevertheless, she would reserve the right to take such future action as circumstances might dictate. Koudacheff remarked that the Minister of France seemed very pessimistic and feared that the Belgian defense might be only a sham.

On August 4th, Maier informed the Russian Staff that the French earnestly hoped for a unification of the operations of their own army with those of the Belgian army against Germany. In a conference with Mr. de Broqueville, Belgian Minister of War, the French plan had been accepted conditionally, that is to say, in case the Germans violated Belgian neutrality. The French were to keep this matter secret. Public sentiment seemed to be favorable to the French, but they evidently feared that, at the crucial moment, the Belgians might abandon this plan of common action and permit the Germans to pass through their territory without opposition. In conclusion, the Military Attaché insisted upon the confidential character of the information he had given.

In another communication on the same day, the Russian Military Attaché was able to give the following information concerning

/...

the result of the above-mentioned conference: "Belgium has today declined to take part in common operations with France and has declared that she will consider as an enemy and will combat anyone who crosses her frontiers".

Basing his opinion upon the foregoing diplomatic documents from unbiased sources, Dr. von Wegerer arrives at the conclusion that: "Henceforth, one cannot do otherwise than acknowledge the correctness of the attitude of Belgium in 1914 in regard to the maintenance of her neutrality."

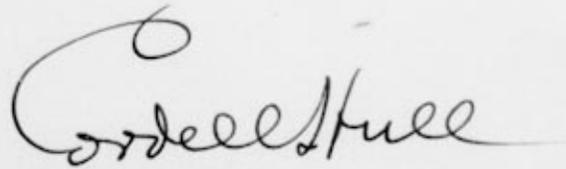
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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 18, 1934.

Dear Mr. President:

I enclose for your information a memorandum on the subject of Belgian neutrality in the days immediately before the opening of the World War, which I promised the Belgian Ambassador I would place before you.

Faithfully yours,



Enclosure:
Memorandum.

The President,
The White House.

Belgium - 1934



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 18, 1934

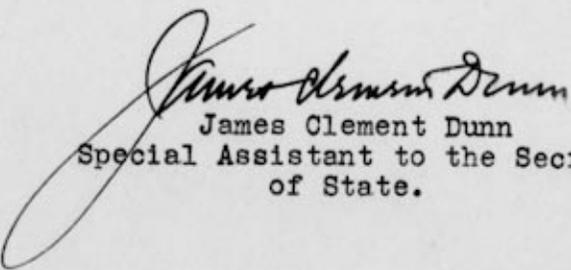
My dear Colonel McIntyre:

I have your note of June fourteenth and in reply would say that it is not customary for the President to reply to Letters of Credence of newly appointed foreign ambassadors and ministers.

The office copy of the Letters of His Majesty Leopold III re-accrediting Mr. Paul May as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belgium near the Government of the United States have been filed in the Department of State and the original is sent to you herewith as you request.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure:
Letters of
Credence.


James Clement Dunn
Special Assistant to the Secretary
of State.

The Honorable

Marvin H. McIntyre,

Assistant Secretary to the President,

The White House.

MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT

DES ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

L E O P O L D III, ROI DES BELGES,

A MONSIEUR FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT,

PRESIDENT DES ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE.

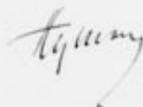
Très Cher et Grand Ami, Ayant été appelé au Trône du Royaume de Belgique par suite du décès de Mon bien-aimé Père, le Roi Albert Ier, Je n'ai rien de plus à coeur que de Vous témoigner le désir dont Je suis animé de maintenir et de consolider, de plus en plus, les relations d'amitié qui subsistent si heureusement entre la Belgique et les Etats-Unis d'Amérique. A cette fin, Je M'empresse de confirmer par les présentes lettres de créance M. May dans la mission qu'il remplit auprès de Vous en qualité de Mon Ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire, ne doutant pas qu'il continuera à se concilier Votre bienveillance. Je Vous prie d'accueillir M. May avec bonté et d'ajouter une foi entière à tout ce qu'il Vous dira de Ma part surtout quand il Vous présentera l'expression des sentiments de haute estime et de parfait attachement avec lesquels Je suis,

Très Cher et Grand Ami,

Votre sincère Ami,



Bruxelles, le 24 avril 1934.



private

Belgium?

Brussels, September 20, 1934

PERSONAL

My dear Mr. President:

May I make my final but informal report as your special representative for the return of the remains of the late Belgian Ambassador to his native country, by saying that on September 18th I had an audience with the King to whom I repeated your messages of sympathy for the personal loss of Mr. May, your expressions of good will for Belgium, and your invitation to him and Queen Astrid that they visit you during your term of office.

Needless to say, His Majesty was greatly touched by the magnificent gesture of America, your cordiality and your tempting invitation. He requested that I make this clear to you and send you his appreciative thanks, and said he would keep in mind your delightful proffered hospitality, the implication being quite evident that he hoped it might be possible to accept it in the not too distant future. In fact, we talked about avoiding the heat of a

Washington summer and that perhaps I might act on the
journey as a Cicerone!

If you are really serious in desiring to follow
up this invitation, perhaps you may care to send me fur-
ther instructions. I am happy to assure you that you
could have no more charming and attractive guests; there
is no doubt but that they would make a great "hit" with
our people.

Yours as ever,

David L. Hoover,

The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

525
Brussels

Oct. [1934]

~~Acknowledged~~

My dear Mrs Roosevelt,

I read with jealous eyes
the privilege of those who greeted you
last month on the celebration of
your eightieth birthday and wished
I could have flown across for
that joyous event. We all love

you, and it is a joy to tell you
that well known fact, and we are
grateful to you for yourself as
well as for Franklin! Bless
you both -

Congratulations -
admiringly yours

Dante Morris

Personal.

Belgium

Brussels, November 29, 1934.

My dear Franklin:

Last week, upon the Celebration of the Centenary of the founding of the University of Brussels "le grade de Docteur Honoris Causa de l'Université a été conféré" upon The King of The Belgians and The American Ambassador. Other honorary degrees were also awarded, though none by the University itself but only by the several Faculties.

This greatest honor which the University can bestow I lay with humble gratitude at your feet because I realize full well that my share in it is only the good fortune of being your Ambassador at this delightful Court and that there is little personal merit I can claim otherwise. That you shall know this is not native humility I quote from my parchment itself:

"en témoignage de sa gratitude pour la collaboration précieuse que sa Patrie et lui-même apportent aux progrès du haut enseignement et de la recherche scientifique."

So may I again express to you how happy I am to serve here and to hope that I am representing our Country in a manner of

The Honorable
Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

of which you approve. I am vain enough to feel that I am at least not displeasing to the Belgians because after the King had accepted his degree, His Majesty came forward and in the presence of everyone in the crowded auditorium said to me: "We owe this beautiful University largely to the generosity of your country and I thank you also for what you have done in person for us. It is all greatly appreciated."

Today in the English Church I read your inspiring Thanksgiving Proclamation and all of us gave especial thanks that you have those same qualities of courage and conviction which render the Pilgrim tradition in America something we all can well be grateful for.

With every good wish, I am as ever,

admiringly and affectionately your old friend,

David L. Morris,

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*private
file*

THE SECRETARY

February 23, 1935

My dear Mr. Forster:

This would serve as an immediate acknowledgment of King Leopold's letter. When further information is received in the matter, the President may wish to address a further communication to His Majesty.

We will be glad to have the President's reply transmitted through the diplomatic pouch and the Embassy in Brussels.



DRAFT

My dear King Leopold:

I have received with great pleasure your letter of February twelfth, in which you express your interest in the transfer of the remains of Father Damien from Kalawao to Belgium.

I shall be very happy to take steps immediately with a view to carrying out your wish and to see that every facility may be extended in the transfer of Father Damien's remains from their present resting place to his native country.

The self-sacrifice of this noble Christian is well-known to all Americans and I am much gratified in being able to lend my own small tribute to his memory.

Believe me, my dear King Leopold,

Your affectionate and devoted friend,



Brussels, 12 February 1935.

My dear President and Friends,

Your feelings of sympathy towards Belgium have prompted me to ask your personal assistance in the accomplishment of a wish expressed by the Fathers of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart.

Father Damien who was a member of this congregation, worked 16 years for the spiritual and physical welfare of the lepers at Molokai when he became himself a victim of the disease and died on February 15th 1889. His body was buried near the church of Kalawao, but now, owing to the recent transfer of the leprosy hospital to Kalapapa, his grave has been abandoned.

The memory of this great pioneer, a hero of charity, is deeply worshipped in Belgium and the Fathers of the Sacred

United States of America.



The Hon.
Franklin Roosevelt,
President of the United States of America.
White House



Washington D.C.

R BRUXELLES Q. L. 445
BRUSSEL L. W.



Personal

"Phi Personal"

ON BOARD
CUNARD WHITE STAR
"BERENGARIA"

June 21, 1935.

11
My dear Franklin;

On this day I received a radiogram notifying me of my election to the Harvard Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. Seventeen days before I was made a Doctor of Laws of Syracuse University and seven months previously I received my Doctorate Honoris Causa from the free University of Brussels.

When you sent me to Belgium as your Ambassador you did not suspect me of possessing all these potentialities of learned scholarship. Well, you were right. And I do not imagine that these delightful honors are anything more or less than testimony of regard for me in my representative capacity;- so gratefully/^Ilay them all at your feet and thank you again for my enjoying them.

It was very nice seeing you again and looking so well. Here is wishing you the best of luck. And always remember if I can be of service in any way, let me know.

Yours as ever

To the Hon.
Franklin D. Roosevelt

D. H. M., *Dave H. Morris*
Belgium

P.F.
Brussels, July 10, 1935

Dear Miss Le Hand:

I am enclosing you a copy of a letter I have written to His Majesty King Leopold III, the gist of which perhaps you had better communicate to the President so that he may know how I am carrying out his personal and private instructions.

When Their Majesties came to visit the AYLWIN I again brought up the subject to Queen Astrid and she seemed most responsive. I fancy the only difficulty will be getting away from Belgium for so long a time.

I shall keep you posted as to what decisions if any are made in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

David D. Lewis

Miss Marguerite Le Hand
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Brussels, July 10, 1935

Your Majesty,

I hope Your Majesty will allow me to express my grateful appreciation for permitting me to speak informally during the Soirée at the British Pavillion, of the desire of the President to know if Your Majesties could find it possible to pay a visit of state to the United States and be his guests at the White House in Washington.

The season when climatic conditions are usually most favorable in the Eastern States is the latter half of October and the month of November. The ocean crossing may be accomplished now in about five days, so that a total of three weeks would allow at least ten days to be spent in the United States.

When I was in Washington, the President spoke most enthusiastically of his desire to receive Your Majesties and suggested at the same time that a trip through the Eastern Seaboard might prove of interest.

To

His Majesty

King Leopold III.

I shall be glad to discuss the details at any time and with whomever Your Majesty may designate, and venture to express the hope that the trip be not regarded as an impossibility without consideration of several alternatives. As the accomplishment of this visit of state would be such a happy occasion for our nation and as Your Majesties have been so gracious as to say that the idea commended itself to You, I trust that one of the alternatives may prove feasible.

I am, with great respect,

Your Majesty's humble servant,

DAVE H. MORRIS



In reply refer to
PC 811.001 Roosevelt, F.D./2669

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

August 21, 1935

My dear Mr. Forster:

Pursuant to previous correspondence and our conversation over the telephone concerning the loss or miscarriage of a letter from the President to the King of the Belgians relative to the removal of the remains of Father Damien from the Island of Molokai to Belgium, I am now sending to you for your information and the files of your office copy of a telegram which has been sent to the American Ambassador at Brussels and copy of a letter on the subject which has been sent to the Secretary of the Interior.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosures:

- To American Ambassador,
Brussels;
- To Secretary of the
Interior.

Mr. Rudolph Forster,
Executive Clerk to the President,
The White House.

file personal

*Belgium
1935*

Department of State

BUREAU
DIVISION

PC

ENCLOSURE

TO

Letter drafted

ADDRESSED TO

Mr. Rudolph Forster

COPY OF TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

August 17, 1935, 3 p.m.

AMEMBASSY,
BRUSSELS (BELGIUM)

Your 69, July 30, for the President.

Inform His Majesty that the President received his letter of February twelfth with much pleasure and at once replied that he would be happy to see that the American Government lend every assistance within its province looking to the transfer of the remains from Molokai to Belgium. The President's letter was despatched in the open mail through which channel His Majesty's letter was received. The White House is now making an investigation with regard to the mailing the President's letter. Steps have been taken with the proper officials of the Government to see what can be done in carrying out King Leopold's wishes and in the meantime you might obtain from the Belgian authorities any suggestions which might be helpful to this Government.

HULL.

COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

August 19, 1935.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am sending to you herewith copy of a letter from the King of the Belgians to the President asking on behalf of the Fathers of the Sacred Heart of Belgium his personal assistance in effecting the removal of the remains of Father Damien to Belgium.

As you know, this saintly priest gave his life to the care of those isolated in the leper colony at Molokai where he himself died from the disease in 1889 and was buried near the church of Kalawao.

It is the President's wish that the proper officials of your Department immediately get in touch with the authorities of Hawaii and ascertain what steps can at once be taken looking to the transfer of the remains of Father Damien to Belgium.

The Honorable

Of

Harold L. Ickes,

Secretary of the Interior,

Washington, D. C.

Of course, all expenses incurred in connection with this matter will be borne in Belgium.

In view of the delay caused by miscarriage of the President's reply to King Leopold's letter, he is extremely anxious to receive at the earliest moment any suggestion as to the course to be pursued in carrying out His Majesty's wishes in having Father Damien's body disinterred and shipped to his native land.

Thanking you on behalf of the President for all that you may do in this matter, I am

Very sincerely yours,

CORDELL HULL.

Enclosure:
From King Leopold.

Sept 9, 1934

AMERICAN LEGATION.

Clingendaal,

den Haag.

TEL. 774144



Personal

File
Polquinn
(17)

My dear Franklin:

I am spending Sunday
with your delightful Minister
here in his charming home.
Congratulations all around.
He and Mrs Emmet are
the right people in the
right place, and all is
well! Indeed very well.

Of course we
Think and Talk of you.

(2)

Our hope is to be helpful
in solving some of your
problems in the cases
where you want our
cooperation. We sincerely
trust you will call on us.
Both the countries to which
you have accredited us
need trade agreements
under your new powers,
and if you confine
them to a few items

(3)

at first, later ones can be added readily from time to time. But

those wretched "debts" are at the bottom of so much trouble that - until they are eliminated the future is not bright:

Does it not seem as if all countries needed a lot of education on that point? and are you not really the only person in U.S.A. to whom our people will listen?



AMERICAN LEGATION.

Clingendaal,
den Haag.

TEL. 774144.

was more than kind and I am
very grateful for your generous
hospitality.

Sept 13.

Before I left Bae Harbor
in August, I saw Gov. Braun.
He seemed a bit worried.
"Uncle Henry" said all hands
were to help. Apparently a
good job was done in the
whole State of Maine and I
hope you are well pleased.

I am enclosing some

stamps, new and otherwise,
which may be of interest.

Finances don't look very
cheerful here or in Germany,
but the predicted "blow-up"
seems to be regularly
postponed for worse times.

May I sign myself
affely yrs

David L. Morris,

Personal

file

The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The White House

Washington D.C.

By Pouch

Washington, le 13 septembre 1935.

Monsieur le Président,

Qu'il me soit permis, en qualité de représentant intérimaire de mon Gouvernement, d'exprimer à Votre Excellence ma profonde gratitude pour les témoignages de sympathie qu'Elle a fait parvenir à l'Ambassade du Roi, dans les heures tragiques que la Belgique vient de traverser.

En faisant déposer une couronne de fleurs aux pieds du Catafalque, lors du Service Funèbre célébré à Washington, à la mémoire de notre Bien-aimée Souveraine, Votre Excellence a accompli un geste qui fut d'un doux réconfort à mon Auguste Souverain dans Son immense douleur.

Les Belges se souviennent avec émotion des sentiments généreux dont l'Amérique a fait preuve à leur égard dans des circonstances

A Son Excellence
Monsieur Roosevelt
Président des Etats-Unis d'Amérique

WASHINGTON.

mémorables de leur histoire; pourtant jamais n'ont-ils senti jusqu'à ce jour battre leur coeur à l'unisson de celui du peuple des Etats-Unis, avec autant d'intensité que dans l'épreuve cruelle du moment.

Votre Excellence personnifie la raison d'être de ces sentiments. C'est vers Elle que monte le tribut de la reconnaissance de mon Pays avec l'hommage personnel de mon profond respect.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur le Président, les assurances de ma plus haute considération.

Prince Eugène de Ligne

AMBASSADE DE BELGIQUE

Belgium - 1935

A Son Excellence

Monsieur Roosevelt

Président des Etats-Unis d'Amérique

WASHINGTON, D. C.

J. H.

Brussels, November 15, 1935.

My dear Franklin,

I feel I must let you know what a very happy last weekend we had here when your good friends and admirers, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Watson stayed with us. It was a joy as well as a comfort to hear him analyse brilliantly the situation at home. No wonder Wall Street is betting ten to one on you and no takers. I am very happy he is with us heart and soul because the President of such an important organization as International Business Machines Corporation must not only be a man of importance per se but also a person of tried intelligence and wide experience. He is bearing you many messages from us, and may I emphasize the one that you can always count on me to cooperate in every way with you. The only regret I have in being your Ambassador here is that I am deprived of personal contact with you. Don't hesitate to call on me if I can be of service.

Admiringly and affectionately,

Yours as ever

Wm. L. H.

The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Personal & Confidential

Paula J

Brussels, Belgium
December 26, 1935.

My dear Franklin;

This is just a line to thank you for your greetings and to wish you the best of luck in the coming year.

The way you handle the many problems which come up all the time and your poise and courage are examples we all admire and envy. Do not have any doubts about the future: it is safe in the laps of the Gods.

Whenever any of our Wall Street friends get busy and write me all about how they feel, I tell them that for argument's sake I admit everything. Now, please give a program and the man to carry it out; and I receive no reply. Which reminds me: I have almost committed both you and me to subscribing towards a fund to nominate your admiring friend Hoover. For how much shall I put you down?

Is there anything I can do for you personally? Always feel free to call on me in any capacity. I miss you all very much; that is my only regret in being here so far away but I am happy that the Embassy has had a fine record and I hope you are pleased also.

Affectionately and admiringly

Dave H. Morris

Dave Hennen Morris

*file
Confidential file*

copy

PALAIS de BRUXELLES

22 January 1936

My dear President and Friend,

I am most grateful to you for having so kindly considered my request asking you to take a personal interest in the transfer of the remains of Father Damien to Belgium.

It is owing to your powerful intervention alone that the ardent desire of Belgium has been fulfilled.

I wish to express to you, on behalf of my country and my own, my most affectionate thanks for this new token of friendship.

Believe me your affectionate

LEOPOLD

To the Hon. Franklin Roosevelt.



Palais de Bruxelles

22 January 1936.

My dear President and Friend,

I am most grateful to you for having so kindly considered my request asking you to take a personal interest in the transfer of the remains of Father Samin to Belgium.

It is owing to your powerful intervention alone that the ardent desire of Belgium has been fulfilled.

I wish to express to you, on behalf of my country and my own, my most affectionate thanks for this new token of friendship.

Believe me your affectionate

Liopold

To the Hon. Franklin Roosevelt.

R BRUXELLES 9 3
BRUSSEL 9


Palais de Bruxelles



The Hon. Franklin Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America

White House

Washington D.C.



U.S.A.

April 17, 1936.

(5) Belgium
Brussels

Dear Dave:-

It is good to find your letter on my return from a two weeks fishing trip in the Bahamas.

I am delighted that you will be back the end of June and I count on your coming to Washington. It is too early to tell just how the campaign will shape up but things seem to be in excellent position at the present time. You can help greatly with many elements.

What a delightful churn you are living in in Europe — it goes round and round like the music!

As ever yours,

Honorable Dave H. Morris,
American Embassy,
Brussels,
Belgium.

Brussels, April 1, 1936

PERSONAL

My dear Franklin:

There arrived by pouch last week an envelope from "The White House, registered" and addressed to me in a handwriting which looked much like yours. I looked it over carefully, wondering what message it contained! These are war-scare days: The President is writing directly to me. Is he sending me on special mission? Does he wish me in Washington for consultation, temporarily or permanently? After enjoying many emotions, I opened the missive and read a charming letter from your admiring friend, T. Jefferson Newbold. He told me all about his stay with you, how full of good spirits you are, and how well you look. Hurrah!

Unless the unforeseen happens, I shall spend July and August in Bar Harbor, for which I trust I have your blessing. If you wish especially to see me during

The Honorable
Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington.

the last week of June upon my arrival in New York, you will have to "order" me to the White House; otherwise I shall not venture to ask for an official reception, because I imagine you may be busy with matters only indirectly connected with business of State.

Emily Hammond wrote us of her delightful visit with you and Eleanor. How is it that these black Republicans allow their wives in such dangerous places?

And, speaking of this tribe, I hear my son-in-law, Mills, President of the Discount Corporation (that brilliant combination of all the Presidents of the Big Banks in Wall Street), actually accepted the invitation of your Treasury to discuss the terms of the last issue with the Secretary. Of course that is why it was such a success. But please do not steal him away from your Morgan friends, unless you will agree to pay him a salary of six figures.

It is cheering to have such good reports from Tom Watson; he too says you are looking well and that business is picking up everywhere.

If you have any special plans for me this summer or next winter, please let me know them now, so I can get

acclimated meanwhile and give you intelligent co-operation.

Things are pretty ticklish over here but I believe there will be no war this year. I had an interesting luncheon yesterday with the brilliant, loyal and sound Prime Minister. I am forwarding to the State Department a résumé of what he said.

It is too bad my Military Attaché has been transferred a year ago to Geneva for the benefit of the Disarmament Council because now is the time of all others when he should be on the firing line here. I did all I could to get him back, but failed. Red tape came out on top as usual.

My best to you all.

Affectionately yours,

Dave to, Lu,



Palais de Bruxelles

10 May 1936.

My dear President and Friend,

Having assisted on the 3^d of May at Antwerp at the return journey of the body of the Very Reverend Father Damien, I hasten to express my heartiest thanks to your Excellency whose very kind and personal intervention was decisive.

My people convey their profound gratitude to you for the solemnity with which the precious body was honoured while on the territory of the United States of America.

Owing to you, Belgium will be able to venerate a fellow countryman who is very rightly considered by her as one of its truest national heroes.

When the world is so occupied by materialism, it is very consoling to see how the memory of a life of abnegation and self sacrifice has given rise to such a transport of enthusiasm.

The merit of the expression of this high and noble sentiment falls, first of all, upon your Excellency.

Believe me yours affectionately

Lispel

To His Excellency
The Honourable Franklin Roosevelt.

His Excellency

The Honourable Franklin Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America

White House,

Washington D.C.



Palais de Bruxelles

Le 30 mai 1936.

Fidèle à une tradition qui lui est chère, la Belgique fleurit aujourd'hui les tombes des soldats des Etats-Unis tombés sur son sol pendant la grande guerre.

Je m'associe de tout coeur à ce devoir sacré. Je renouvelle à cette occasion à la Nation américaine le témoignage de la profonde reconnaissance et de l'amitié du Peuple belge.

Liopold

DAVE H. MORRIS
BAR HARBOR
MAINE

CONFIDENTIAL

August 25, 1936

Y
Belgium
August 2-36

The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington,
D. C.

Dear Franklin:

Further replying to your request through Henry
Mongenthou for my opinion in regard to the European situation
you may be interested to know that I made some inquiries through
my family and business connections in Wall Street and that last
night I received the following telegraphic information which I
pass on for what it is worth, and this I do chiefly because of
the importance of its source. The information is that no one really
knows anything and that the underlying fear seems to be that the
Spanish troubles may spread to France or Italy and that the really
dangerous present situation is a question as to whether or not the
Spanish events are not clouding the real conditions in France.

Yours as ever,

D. H. M.

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL



OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT
J. C. THORNE AND J. J. ATKINSON

*file
this mail*
file
this mail

The Ambassador

PARK AVENUE
51ST TO 52ND STREETS
NEW YORK

September 12, 1936

Dear Franklin;

It was lovely seeing you again: I am very happy to find you so well and confident. There is no doubt in my mind about your re-election. I enjoyed having your son John with me on the train to N. Y.

I went to Mt. Kisco to see Jesse. He spoke beautifully about you and is dreaming of taking up work again in your second term. Mrs. Straus showed me your comprehending letter to her. She is very, very grateful for it and will always treasure it.

Please bear in mind that I am more than glad to carry out Tom Watson's suggestion for me to do anything you think will be helpful. Feel free to call on me in any way, either for temporary jobs or a permanent one. May I repeat that I really want you to take advantage of the knowledge that I wish to return for keeps to USA next winter or at least by next spring, so that you may plan accordingly.

I leave with Bill Bullitt and Grenville Emmett on the Washington, Sept. 23rd next.

Affectionately yours

D. H. Morris
(Dave H. Morris)

File Personal

Brussels

Nov. 9, 1936.

Personal & Confidential

My dear Franklin;-

I have cabled and written you my congratulations, so I shall now only confirm them and add that when I jokingly mentioned worrying because "it was not unanimous", I really had no idea at that time how nearly 100% the electoral vote would be. It is a magnificent personal triumph. Everywhere it is so proclaimed. I am happy here basking in reflected glory. Hurrah.

And now good friend and "most powerful man in all the world", what service may I perform for you next? It has been a pleasure to represent you in this dear little country where you are so loved and admired (and thanks to my good stars I have made no break so far) but I feel I should go back to USA by next spring to reside there permanently. However nothing would please me more than to continue working with you; so if you would like me near you next year, I hope you will give me that privilege. As I told you last summer, the claims on me are many that I return to my Macy and other Foundations, but I should appreciate from you first a public sign of approval before I do so. Can you not then call me home to work with you personally or for you during a short period of time instead of my just returning and retiring next spring? Perhaps I could take on a Cabinet position temporarily until you find just the man you want for the permanent job. Of course I don't wish to do anything that might embarrass you so I hope that before any decision is reached by either of us, you will give me your views and make such suggestions as may oc-

PTO

cur to you. There is no immediate haste as far as I am
concerned but it seems best to have you know what is in my
mind and heart so you can plan at your convenience.

Affectionately as ever

Dave H. M.

Dave Hennen Morris

P. S. If you reply by wire, please use guarded language
so that no one will understand except you and me. Otherwise
my position would become difficult.

To The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House



file personal

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

Belgium

In reply refer to
WE 811.001 Roosevelt, F.D./4382

November 16, 1936

My dear Mr. McIntyre:

I transmit herewith copy of a note received from the Belgian Ambassador in this city, congratulating the President on his reelection. I feel sure he will be pleased to see it.

A copy of the Department's reply to the Ambassador's message is also enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

R. Walter Stone
Acting Secretary.

Enclosure:
From Belgian Embassy,
November 5, 1936, in
translation.
Copy of Department's reply.

The Honorable

Marvin H. McIntyre,

Secretary to the President,

The White House.

Department of State

BUREAU | **WE**
DIVISION |

ENCLOSURE
TO

Letter drafted **11-11-36**

ADDRESSED TO

The Honorable

**Marvin H. McIntyre,
Secretary to the
President,
The White House.**

November 18 1936

Excellency:

I acknowledge with appreciation the receipt of Your Excellency's kind note No. 4109 of November 5, 1936, and I beg to inform Your Excellency that I have not failed to transmit a copy of it to the President.

The President desires me to express to Your Excellency his sincere appreciation of the message from the Belgian people.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

R. Walton Moore

His Excellency

Count Robert van der Straten-Ponthoz,
Belgian Ambassador.

811.001 Roosevelt, F.D./4382

TRANSLATION

EMBASSY OF BELGIUM

Washington,

D. 4969

November 5, 1936.

No. 4109

Mr. Secretary of State:

Pursuant to instructions from my Government, I have the honor to request Your Excellency to be so good as to transmit to His Excellency, Mr. Roosevelt, sincere congratulations on the Presidential election, which keeps him at the head of the Republic of the United States of America.

The brilliant success of the President in the States of the Union is absolute proof of the whole nation's admiration for him.

The Belgian people associates itself profoundly with the homage which has just been rendered to him, and I am glad of the agreeable mission which has been entrusted to me of giving assurance thereof to the American people.

It is with enthusiasm, Mr. Secretary of State, that I avail myself of the opportunity which is given to me to offer to Your Excellency my personal felicitations and the expression of my highest consideration.

V. STRATEN

To His Excellency,
Mister the Secretary of State,
Department of State,
Washington.

Tr:EBC:HMH:SS

11/7

PSF
Belgium

*full
personal*

Brussels, January 16, 1937.

Dear Mr. President,

In conformity with the customary procedure when the Chief Executive is re-elected, I have the honor to tender my resignation as Ambassador to Belgium and Minister to Luxemburg, to take effect at your pleasure. In this connection, you may perhaps desire to refer to my letter of November 9, 1936, sent to you personally through the kindness of Miss Le Hand.

Faithfully yours,

Dwight D. Davis

*Do you suggest adding a new cabinet post
for him?*

The Honorable

Franklin D. Roosevelt

The White House

Washington

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

File

February 27, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR YOUR CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION. PLEASE RETURN.

F. D. R.

Matter attended to

CH

Belgium

Brussels, February 19, 1937

PERSONAL

My dear Franklin:

Many thanks for your letter of the 2nd. My "Bride" is convalescing steadily though very slowly. If I could only take her away from this climate to the Riviera, she would soon be well, but the dangers of transportation at present are too great to risk; so here we shall stay until the spring. Your sympathy is deeply appreciated by us both and we thank you for its friendly expression.

You are lovely as ever to write me so frankly and I am sure you must know how much I value your confidence. It is easy to believe you are "working day and night during this difficult period of uncertainty which may last months", and my only regret is that I am doing nothing to be of service to you. But please realize that I understand in general your problems and the pressure from all sides and that I shall be happy to stand by in case I ever can be useful.

From our recent correspondence I gather it will be satisfactory for me to stay over here until I go to see you in Washington during April or May at which time let us hope the Reorganization Bill will be law and the doubts you write about will have cleared up.

Later on I may ask you to send for me officially so that there will be no need to secure a leave of absence from the State Department, but on the contrary I shall be "detailed to you for consultation."

I hope you also received that Kodak of your grandchildren and mine and the goat in the woods of Westchester County; it made me homesick for them.

Affectionately as ever,

David G. Morris,

The Honorable
Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States,
The White House,
Washington D.C.

DHM/AD.

P.F.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

April 13, 1937.

Belgium

My dear Mr. President:

In accordance with your request,
I am submitting herewith a suggested letter
for you to send to Mr. Morris.

Faithfully yours,

Cordell Hull

Encs

Suggested letter.
Letter from Mr. Morris
to the President.

The President,

The White House.

April 13, 1937

My dear Dave:

I have been giving a great deal of thought to the request contained in your letter of March 13, and the Secretary of State and I have talked the matter over in the hope that it might be possible to grant your request that your resignation be deferred until next October.

We are confronted, however, with a difficult situation. I have reached the conclusion that it is in the best interests of our representation abroad to undertake the transfer without delay of four of our Ambassadors. The carrying out of this entire series of transfers, however, is contingent upon my being able to appoint one of these men to the Embassy in Brussels after your resignation becomes effective. If his successor were appointed immediately, the man I have in mind would not, as you know, under the law be able to draw any salary until he was sworn in as Ambassador to Belgium, and inasmuch as he is a man without private means, it would work an undue hardship upon him if he were forced to defer taking the oath as Ambassador to Belgium until next October.

Consequently, since I cannot postpone making these transfers for the length of time

The Honorable
Dave Hennen Morris,
American Ambassador,
Brussels.

which compliance with your request would render necessary, I find it impossible, to my regret, to do as you ask.

I think, of course, that you should remain as Ambassador until after the termination of the Belgian Prime Minister's visit to Washington, but I feel that you should plan to have your resignation become effective immediately after that time.

I shall look forward to seeing you early in June.

Affectionately yours,

Sec of State
Brussels
P. H. Morris

March 15, 1935

Personal and

Confidential

My dear Franklin;

I am in a bit of a jam and need your help. Here is the trouble: (1) The Prime Minister is going to see you next June and he has asked me to be with him in USA at that time;

(2) Officials at the University of Ghent have told me confidentially that I am to receive an honorary degree at the opening exercises in early October.

Because of these two situations it would appear awkward, to put it mildly, if on those occasions I were an "Ex-Ambassador"; therefore would it upset your plans if you postponed acceptance of my resignation until next October? Moreover to await until then would permit of my saying good-bye here next fall in the usual protocolair manner thus leaving only the proper impressions in the community.

At last my Bride is getting over the after effects of that attack of bronchial pneumonia, but until she no longer coughs up purulent phlegm the Doctor will not permit her to go out. We still have rain, snow and sleet most of the time.

I am sorry I am not with you during these trying times. My best to you all.

Affectionately as ever

D. H. Morris

Dave Hennen Morris

To The Honorable
Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House.



MISSY
to send him a
line of thanks

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Brussels, April 27, 1937

Belgium

Dear Miss Le Hand:

I am enclosing you a stamp of each denomination of the new issue that has just come out in Belgium showing the late Queen Astrid and her son the Prince Baudouin. Please present them to the President with my best wishes.

|| Mrs. Morris and I are leaving on the ||
Manhattan, sailing from Havre on May 7th, so I shall hope to see you by the end of next month.

For your personal information only, which of course includes gossip with the President, it may interest you to know that Bullitt is coming on from Paris by automobile to take dinner with me tomorrow night. I am having the Prime Minister also. This little dinner "à trois" should be interesting to us three at least if not to anybody else.

Kindest regards to all good friends.

Yours as ever,

Walter D. Morris

Miss Marguerite Le Hand,
The White House,
Washington D.C.

DHM/AD.

GEORGES THEUNIS

Belgium

BRUXELLES
2. RUE DES DEUX ÉGLISES

2 Juin 1937

fin personal

Dear Mr. Conway,

I thank you for your kind letter of May 29th. and have been very glad to meet you in Brussels.

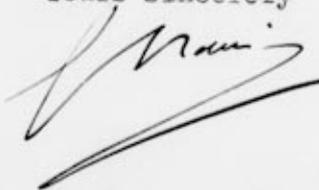
Please find herewith some figures concerning the U.S.A.-Belgo-Luxembourg trade.

You are kind enough to ask my advice about the general trade problem.

I feel strongly that the international trade must be taken in its all. One ought to consider more the general result of a particular policy, for all countries, than the particular results as regards one country.

I think that U.S.A. in following a more liberal economic policy, serve not only the world trade, but grant a particularly important help to the worlds peace.

Yours sincerely



Mr. Carle C. Conway
Hotel Ritz
Place Vendôme
Paris.

U.S.A.-Belgian trade, since the Commercial Agreement of Febr. 1935 between U.S.A. and the Belgo-Luxembourg Union.

According to the Belgian statistics, the commercial trade U.S.A.-Belgium, amounts for 1934 and 1936 to the following figures:

U.S.A. imports in Belgium-Luxembourg

1934	6.897.953	metric tons	for a value of	1.003.783.000	frcs.
1936	7.370.904	" " " "	" " " "	1.512.714.000	frcs.

showing an increase for 1936, of 472.951 metric tons and an increase of 508.931.000 frcs. (say 7 % in weight, and 50 % in value.)

Belgo-Luxembourg imports in U.S.A.

1934	3.152.130	metric tons	for a value of	616.497.000	frcs.
1936	7.838.501	" " " "	" " " "	1.572.057.000	frcs.

showing an increase, for 1936, of 4.686.371 metric tons, and an increase of 955.561.000 frcs. (say 148 % in weight and 155 % in value.)

The commercial trade between these two countries marks thus an important improvement from 1934 to 1936.

This improvement is, for the greatest part; the result of the commercial agreement and the amelioration of the economic situation in the U.S.A.

The Belgo-Luxembourg Union's imports in U.S.A. have more improved in weight and value than the U.S.A. imports in the Belgo-Luxembourg Union. Practically, the commercial balance is now in equilibrium.

To be noted that an improvement of 472.951 metric tons of U.S.A. imports in the Union, shows an improvement of 508.931.000 frcs. In the other way, an improvement of 4.686.371 metric tons of Belgo-Luxembourg imports in U.S.A. shows a value improvement of no more than 955.561.000 frcs.

The increase of Belgian exports to U.S.A. is for the largest part due to mass-products, while the increase of the U.S.A. exports to Belgium is due to quality products, containing more skilled labour.

Note 2.

According to the League of Nations Monthly Bulletin of statistics the gold value of world trade, in march 1937, was 12,6 per cent higher than in February 1937, and about 24 per cent higher than in March 1936.

The gold value for the first quarter of 1937 was 18 per cent higher than for the first quarter of 1936, and 2,5 per cent higher than for the last quarter of 1936. This is the first time for many years, that the gold value during the first quarter of a year was higher than that of the preceding quarter.

Almost all the more important trading countries have participated in the revival in total trade. Judging from the gold value of imports in the first quarter of 1937, compared with the same quarter of 1936, imports increased most in the U.S.A.-by almost 40 per cent. - in Italy by 32 per cent., in China, Japan, Belgium and Canada, by about 30 per cent, in Switzerland and France by 19 per cent, in Czechoslovakia by 17,6 per cent, in Holland by about 16 per cent, in Sweden by about 15 per cent, in the United Kingdom by 13,5 per cent, and in Australia by 10 per cent. The increase of imports into Germany was only 3,4 per cent while those into Australia dropped by 1 per cent, and those into Italy by 4,5 per cent.

The gold value of exports, comparing again the firsts quarter of 1937 with the same quarter of 1936, was more than 100 per cent greater for Argentina, and 67 per cent for Italy. There was likewise a considerable increase of exports from China- 44 per cent, India - 33 per cent, Belgium-30 per cent, Holland-27 per cent, The U.S.A.-24 per cent, Canada-23 per cent, Czechoslovakia, Sweden and Japan about 20 per cent. The increase for Germany was 13 per cent, for the United Kingdom and Australia 12,5 per cent. France shows a slight increase of 1 per cent, and Switzerland a decrease of about 4 per cent.

Note 3.

Belgo-Luxemburg Union imports in U.S.A.

Increase in value: 955.561.000 frs.

Stone works (precious stones)	27 %
Textile industry products	24 %
Metal and metallic products	11 %
Vegetable products	10 %
Mineral products	8,4 %
Chemical products	7 %
Animal products	7 %

Increase in weight: 468.631 metric tons

Mineral products	55 %
Chemical products	18 %
Metal and metallic products	14 %
Vegetable products	11 %
Textile industry products	5 %
Animal products	0,5 %
Stone products	0,2 %

U.S.A. imports in Belgo-Luxemburg Union

Increase in value:

Motorcars	23 %
Mineral products	20 %
Machines and mechanicals	8 %
Wood and wooden products	5,5 %
Food industries products	5,3 %
Chemical products	4,7 %
Paper	2,7 %

Increase in weight:

1) Mineral products
2) Wood and wooden products
3) Chemicals products
4) Paper
5) Motorcars
6) Food industries products
7) Machines and mechanicals

Belgium Imports in U.S.A.

Products.	1936.		Increase in comparison of 1934.		Percentage of increase.	
	metric ton.	1,000 franc.	metric ton.	1,000 franc.	Weight	Value.
Products of Textile Industry.	374.106.	411.081	225.418	232.609	150%	130%
Stone works	13.504	395.061	11.159	264.403.	550%	200%
Metal and metallic works.	1.180.391	166.928	686.014	106.641	140%	170%
Mineral Products (Limestones, stones)	4.112.905	151.627	2.608.192	80.462	170%	112%
Vegetable Products	674.776	130.106.	536.864	103.851	310%	400%
Chemical Products	1.328.194.	128.342	515.466.	54.463.	60%	75%
Animal Products	40.715	91.746	23.275	67.053	135%	270%
<u>U.S.A. imports in Belgium.</u>						
Motorcars, etc.	266.501	336.006	34.509	114.937	15%	55%
Mineral Products (oil)	3.836.588	286.043	565.876.	102.557	17%	56%
Food Industries	1.260.683	164.692	23.861	27.230	2%	20%
Machines, mechanics	28.127	109.548	6.432	41.098	30%	60%
Wood & wooden products	728.722	85.799	115.961	29.835	18%	53%
Metals - metallic products		increase in	value.			
Vegetable products		increase in	value.			
Paper, etc.	93.359	24.258	39.385	14.731.	75%	150%
Chemical Products	168.041	55.542	106.144	27.802	170%	80%

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 4, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR PREPARATION OF REPLY
FOR MY SIGNATURE.

F. D. R.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
THE UNDER SECRETARY

File
Private
fill.
Belgium

June 25, 1937

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am attaching herewith the memorandum of which I spoke on the telephone and which you may care to take up with the President before you return to Washington. I am making this suggestion only because I realize that the President will be occupied with so many matters on Monday that it may be easier for him to consider the points contained in this memorandum while he is still at Jefferson Island.

U SW:IJ

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
THE UNDERSECRETARY

Conversation.

June 25, 1937.

At Mr. Van Zeeland's suggestion and in order to avoid publicity, I went this morning to the Belgian Embassy, where I talked with the Prime Minister for about an hour.

The Prime Minister covered about the same field of discussion which he covered in his conversations with the Secretary of State on Thursday.

Mr. Van Zeeland told me that it appeared to him that there were now two alternatives before him: (1) to return to Europe and advise the French and British Governments that the Government of the United States was disposed to cooperate in every feasible manner in the field of limitation of armaments; to cooperate with the Governments of Europe which were prepared to go along with it in the trade policy initiated and proclaimed by the United States; and, finally, to cooperate in measures tending towards financial stabilization such as those already embodied in the tripartite understanding. Mr. Van Zeeland said that, while the assurances which he could give along these lines would be encouraging, all these facts as to the attitude of the United States were already known and appreciated in London and in Paris, and it could hardly be assumed that any

practical results would be forthcoming as a consequence of his visit to the United States.

He said, and in this opinion I strongly concurred, that it would hardly be possible for the peoples in Europe as well as on this continent to maintain very much longer unimpaired their faith in the principles which his government and our government were supporting unless the peoples began to believe that these principles were productive of concrete achievement.

The second alternative, he said, was for him to take with him a definite program, which he formulated along these lines:

(a) A meeting in the immediate future of representatives of the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland and Switzerland - in other words, the nations now supporting the principles embodied in the tripartite agreement - for the purpose of considering and agreeing upon certain steps which they might jointly or simultaneously take in order to advance disarmament, monetary stabilization, and the furtherance of the United States liberal trade policy. He emphasized that this meeting should be entirely informal and that it should be publicly understood that these representatives were meeting with no prior commitments and for the

sole purpose of agreeing upon a program which would be open to the adherence of every nation of the world. On the disarmament question, he felt that an agreement could there be found which would involve the commitment on the part of the nations represented to refrain from bombing from the air. In the field of a liberal trade program, he felt that an agreement could be found for the extension and development of the policies already pursued by Belgium and the United States and he envisaged the possibility that some multilateral agreement in the nature of the Oslo agreement might be had. In the field of monetary stabilization, he felt that probably the six nations represented had already gone as far as they could under present conditions, but that it might be possible to find ways and means of going further.

I stated to Mr. Van Zeeland that it seemed to me that should such a meeting be possible from the standpoint of this Government, two conditions precedent were indispensable prerequisites: First, the positive engagement on the part of the United Kingdom that she would join with the United States by act and not ^{only} by word in the reciprocal trade program and, second, that any such meeting would appear to me not only to be futile but even dangerous, because of the disillusion which its

failure would occasion, unless the governments taking part in such an exchange of views had definitely agreed through diplomatic channels beforehand upon certain concrete steps which could be formally confirmed at the suggested meeting.

The Prime Minister said that he was entirely in accord with this point of view.

As a second future step, the Prime Minister said that he would urge, once an agreement had been found at the suggested meeting, that the agreements there formulated be communicated to certain other powers and in particular Germany and Italy, in order that a second informal meeting might be had at which the original six nations would be represented together with representatives of the other powers which might be later determined upon.

I asked the Prime Minister what specific steps he had in mind as those which could be taken at this second meeting. As to this phase of the problem he said he could hardly venture to prophesy. He told me, however, of the conversations had, both by himself and by his representatives, in Germany and in Italy and expressed a very great measure of optimism as to the attitude which those governments would probably adopt, particularly if they

saw a reasonable chance that such agreements opened the way to more normal trade between their countries and the rest of the world.

At this point Mr. Van Zeeland said that he recognized fully that the general assumption in the United States was that credits from the United States would be required before Germany and Italy could be persuaded to terminate their present aut^ochic system. He said that he was confident that this was not the case. He expressed the belief that the minute that some broad advance could be made in Europe towards the achievement of a normal flow of trade between countries, and the minute confidence began to return that disarmament and peace were within the grasp of Europe, capital which had now taken flight from Europe would return and that all the credits which might be necessary to ease Germany and Italy through the transition period would be available from European sources. He said, of course, that this did not imply that private American capital should not have equal opportunity for investment should it be desired, but that it was by no means required.

I purposely refrain from making this memorandum any longer for I feel sure Mr. Van Zeeland has covered the whole field in considerable detail with the President

and with the Secretary of State. In view, however, of the fact that Mr. Van Zeeland will only be in Washington next Tuesday and will be sailing immediately thereafter on his return trip to Europe, I venture to suggest that the President and yourself may wish to consider making two decisions before Mr. Van Zeeland returns on Tuesday.

1. Whether it would not be highly desirable for some statement to be issued by the President and by Mr. Van Zeeland which, without going into details, might yet strike a note of optimism and indicate that Mr. Van Zeeland's visit here has been productive of more than a mere giving and receiving of information.

2. The confidential expression to Mr. Van Zeeland of the willingness of this Government to have a representative attend the preliminary meeting of the representatives of the countries now in the monetary agreement suggested provided the two conditions precedent above mentioned have been met, with the understanding that the people of this country will be given clearly to understand that the sole purpose of the meeting is to discuss the ways and means of advancing military and economic disarmament, and that this Government would not participate in the discussion of any point upon the agenda of a directly political nature.

Mr. Van Zeeland told me confidentially, and said he could not recall whether he had mentioned this to the President and to the Secretary of State, that he had cabled to London since his arrival in Washington stating that he would stop in London on his return to Brussels in order to confer with Mr. Chamberlain and with Mr. Eden.

A

Palais de Bruxelles, 21 juillet 1937.

Mon cher Premier Ministre,

Lorsqu'on réfléchit à l'état de désorganisation dans lequel se trouve plongée l'Humanité, un sentiment de profonde inquiétude fait entrevoir l'avenir sous un jour bien obscur.

Aussi faut-il encourager avec force et conviction toute tentative d'organisation, dont la poursuite peut élever l'esprit vers un idéal de solidarité humaine.

Cette considération ne souligne-t-elle pas l'importance de la mission que la Grande-Bretagne et la France ont confiée, par votre intermédiaire, à la Belgique et qui dépasse largement les limites qu'on lui attribue généralement, puisqu'elle peut mener jusqu'à la recherche des éléments d'une organisation de l'économie mondiale.

L'accueil que vous avez reçu au-delà de l'Atlantique est un indice des bonnes dispositions des Etats-Unis d'Amérique envers l'effort dû à l'initiative de la Grande-Bretagne et de la France. Ces trois Nations nous apportent ainsi le témoignage de leur désir généreux de participer activement à l'établissement d'un ordre meilleur, que réclame le monde entier.

Monsieur Paul van Zeeland.

Premier Ministre.

Le surcroît de travail que vous vous êtes imposé, en acceptant cette lourde tâche, suscitera la gratitude de tous ceux qui en comprennent le véritable but et qui en mesurent l'immense portée.

Au moment où vous allez fixer les premiers résultats de votre enquête, laissez-moi vous faire une suggestion : il serait essentiel, je pense, de provoquer la création d'un organisme d'études économiques, dont la valeur serait marquée par son triple caractère d'universalité, de permanence et d'indépendance.

Recherche des éléments d'une organisation de l'économie universelle, adaptation continue de cette organisation aux variations constantes des facteurs de l'économie, tel serait l'objet des études de cette institution.

La science économique, essentiellement faite de vie, est soumise au rythme de celle-ci et les problèmes qu'elle pose ne peuvent recevoir de solution immuable.

Enfin pour être apte à remplir sa mission, l'institution envisagée devrait être aussi indépendante que possible des influences nationales.

Il est sans conteste fort difficile d'isoler le domaine de l'économie des contingences politiques. Mais c'est précisément cette difficulté qui constitue le noeud du problème dont vous êtes saisi et sur laquelle tous nos efforts doivent se concentrer.

Dans ces conditions, il serait capital que l'institution suggérée pût compter sur la collaboration des personnes qui- de par

le monde - connaissent le mieux l'ensemble des questions se rapportant à l'industrie, au commerce, à l'agriculture, à la finance, au travail. Ces personnes apporteraient leur concours, à raison de leur compétence individuelle, et non pas en vertu d'un mandat.

L'abaissement des barrières douanières, pas plus qu'aucune autre mesure partielle, ne peut seul mettre un terme au désordre qui menace la paix. Si nous voulons réellement écarter la guerre et ramener les hommes à des sentiments plus pacifiques, il faut avoir le courage d'envisager la question économique dans sa généralité et de donner une solution aux grands problèmes qui se dressent menaçants devant l'Humanité entière :

- la distribution des matières premières,- la distribution des moyens d'échange,- la répartition internationale du travail,- l'équilibre entre les nations agricoles et industrielles, etc..

Je ne me fais pas illusion sur les difficultés que comporte la réalisation d'un programme aussi étendu.

Toutefois, j'ai la conviction que le moment est favorable pour la tenter et que nous pourrions espérer trouver, dans l'accomplissement de cet effort, non seulement le soutien de tous les Gouvernements, mais encore l'approbation et l'appui des grandes collectivités sociales, religieuses et philanthropiques; en un mot, de tous les hommes dont le coeur renferme un désir de compréhension et de solidarité.

Nous ne pouvons nous le dissimuler, des groupements entiers de la communauté humaine ne s'entendent plus.

Si un premier pas pouvait être fait pour les rapprocher, nous apporterions à l'Humanité et notamment à l'Orient - autrement que par des mots - la preuve que l'Occident place, au-dessus des préoccupations immédiates d'ordre matériel, la force spirituelle émanant d'un véritable sentiment de fraternité.

Croyez-moi, mon cher Premier Ministre,
votre dévoué,

(s) LEOPOLD.

Belgium

August 25, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE.

Will you please be good enough to see
that the enclosed letter is sent to the
King via the Ambassador?

M. H. McINTYRE
Secretary to the President

STATE - Let. to Leopole III, King of the Belgians, 8/25/37 -
copy in files.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

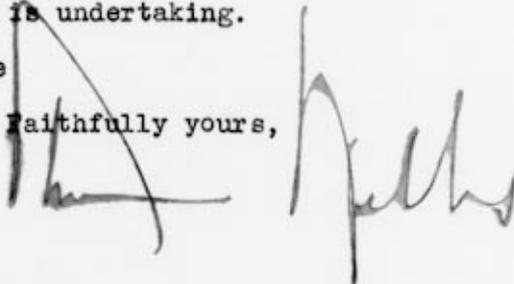
August 24, 1937

My dear Mr. President:

In accordance with the request contained in your memorandum of August 23, I am transmitting herewith a suggested reply for you to send to the King of the Belgians. I believe it highly desirable that you send a reply in view of the nature of his letter to you and in view of the efforts which M. van Zeeland is undertaking.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'H. H. H. H.', written over the typed name 'Faithfully yours,'.

The President,

The White House.

August 24, 1937

My dear King Leopold:

I received a few days ago, through the good offices of Count van der Straten, Your Majesty's letter of July the twenty-fifth, with which you sent me a copy of the letter you had just addressed to Monsieur van Zeeland. I have read this with careful attention. I share your belief that as world conditions deteriorate, the need for some constructive measure of alleviation becomes more and more imperative.

Monsieur van Zeeland's efforts have from the beginning made a strong appeal to me, not only in that they were inspired by a determination to restore a more stable world order, but also because they were based on a practical recognition of what was susceptible of accomplishment, and what was not. It would be a real disappointment to me if progress in his task were too long delayed, and if some tangible result did not ensue within a reasonable length of time. I feel strongly that the importance of economic equilibrium as an aid to world peace has often been underestimated and I am correspondingly grateful for what Monsieur van Zeeland, with Your Majesty's helpful encouragement, has done to emphasize this truth.

His Majesty
Leopold III,
King of the Belgians.

Part of my pleasure in welcoming
Monsieur van Zeeland to Washington last June
was the opportunity it gave me of sending
special messages of greetings and good wishes
to Your Majesty. With grateful appreciation
of the sentiments you in turn have expressed,
believe me

Very sincerely yours,

En:FM
U SW:13

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

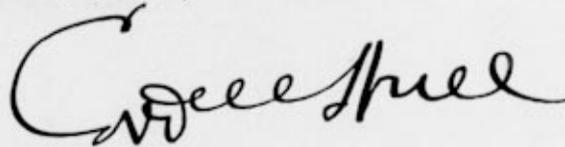
August 17, 1937

My dear Mr. President:

At the request of the Belgian Ambassador I am sending you herewith a manuscript letter addressed to you by His Majesty the King of the Belgians. The Ambassador states that this letter is in relation to the missive addressed by the King on the 21st of July to Mr. van Zeeland.

The missive to which the Ambassador has reference is doubtless King Leopold's proposal for the creation of an "Organism of Economic Studies".

Faithfully yours,



Enclosure:

Manuscript letter.

The President,
The White House.



Brussels, 25th July 1937.

My dear President and Friend,

My Prime Minister, on his return from the United States, conveyed to me your kind message which greatly touched me and for which I thank you most sincerely.

He gave me an account of the conversation that you had with him: I was impressed by what you said about the necessity to draw the world's attention to something quite new.

I am taking this opportunity to send you the copy of a letter that I have just addressed to Monsieur van Zeeland and I hope that you will consider with interest the ideas that I have exposed in it.

Believe me, dear President,
yours very sincerely

Liopold

His Excellency the Honourable Franklin Roosevelt,
President of the United States of America.

To His Excellency
the Honorable Franklin Roosevelt,
President of the United States of America
White House
Washington D.C.

Belgium - 1937
From [unclear]



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
PR

September 4, 1937

My dear Miss LeHand:

With reference to the President's memorandum of September 2, I am returning herewith the letter addressed to him by Premier van Zeeland of Belgium.

I do not believe that it calls for a reply from the President, since it would appear to be merely a cordial acknowledgment of a previous letter addressed to the Premier by the President and an expression of thanks for the hospitality extended by Mrs. Roosevelt.

Sincerely yours,

George T. Summerlin
George T. Summerlin
Chief of Protocol

Enclosure:
From Premier van Zeeland,
July 31, 1937.

Miss Marguerite A. LeHand,
Personal Secretary to the President,
The White House.

Department of State

BUREAU
DIVISION

PR

ENCLOSURE

TO

Letter drafted 9/4/37

ADDRESSED TO

Miss LeHand

Monsieur le Président,

Je ne pouvais assez vous dire combien votre aimable lettre du 6 juillet m'a réjoui et reconforté. Le témoignage que vous me faites sur la concordance entre les principes de votre gouvernement et du gouvernement belge, les vœux que vous formulez pour le succès de ma mission, sont pour moi le plus précieux encouragement. Je suis particulièrement sensible aux sentiments cordiaux

font ses responsabilités, que nous
encourageons tous, sans la gravité
de la situation actuelle. Je suis
persuadé que cet état d'esprit
est largement dû à l'influence
du chef de la grande Démocratie
américaine. Aussi me fait-il un
devoir, Monsieur le Président,
de vous dire toute ma reconnais-
sance et toute mon admiration.

Permettez-moi d'ajouter
que ma femme et moi-même,
nous avons gardé un souvenir
charmant de l'hospitalité de
Madame Roosevelt et que je vous
peux de lui faire part de notre
gratitude et de nos hommages.

que vous exprimez à l'égard de
mon pays. Soyez assuré que
l'accueil chaleureux qui m'a
été réservé aux Etats-Unis, la
sympathique compréhension que
j'ai rencontrée dans tous les mil-
lieux, au sujet de la mission
internationale que j'ai assumée,
sont pour moi des gages de réussite.
Comme vous me le demandez, je
ne manquerai pas de vous tenir
au courant de ses progrès.

J'ai été profondément
touché de trouver dans les hautes
sphères de l'opinion publique amé-
ricaine, une connaissance aussi
éclairée des problèmes interna-
tionaux, et un sentiment aussi

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur
le Président, les nouvelles
assurances de nos sentiments
de très haute considération.

Paul van Zeeland

Bruxelles, le 31 Juillet 1937.



Monsieur Franklin Roosevelt,
Président des Etats-Unis d'Amérique,

PS F. Belgium

*file
confidential*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

9/20/37

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

I do not know how this interesting letter
got in my possession but if you haven't seen
it you might be interested.

M. H. M.

PSF: Belgium

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 17, 1937.

This is a copy of a letter from
Mr. Heineman to King Leopold.

PSF
Belgicain

Sire,

Au cours de la traversée que je viens de faire, j'ai pu réfléchir encore au dernier entretien que j'ai eu l'honneur d'avoir avec Votre Majesté.

Je ne crois pas être indiscret en faisant part au Roi des conclusions auxquelles ces réflexions m'ont amené.

Je me permets donc de dire qu'à mon sentiment il est très souhaitable que M. Van Zeeland continue d'exercer les fonctions de Premier Ministre, quelque désir qu'il ait de prendre un repos bien mérité.

En effet, sa démission aurait deux inconvénients graves.

D'une part elle provoquerait dans les circonstances actuelles des commentaires préjudiciables à son crédit, malgré tous les témoignages d'estime et de reconnaissance qu'il recueillerait au moment de sa retraite, et son crédit personnel dût-il même rester intact il n'aurait plus, cessant d'occuper dans son pays la situation éminente qu'il y tient aujourd'hui, la même autorité ni les mêmes moyens d'investigation pour mener à bonne fin la mission d'ordre international dont il est chargé.

D'autre part, du point de vue de la paix intérieure en Belgique, les divisions politiques s'accentueraient si M. Van Zeeland - représentant une politique d'union nationale - était remplacé par un homme de parti, même déterminé à ne pas faire de la politique de parti. Spécialement s'il s'agissait d'un socialiste il y aurait grand danger que des éléments modérés se rallient imprudemment au mouvement rexiste, auquel il serait plus facile de faire suspecter les intentions du Gouvernement et de faire souhaiter un changement de régime.

La confiance que le Parlement vient de marquer à M. Van Zeeland l'encouragera, j'espère, à persévérer dans les grandes tâches auxquelles le Roi l'a appelé.

Je prie Votre Majesté de vouloir bien agréer les nouvelles assurances de mes sentiments respectueux.

PSF: Belgium

London, 1st Sept. 1937.

Dannie Heinemann Esq.,
25, Avenue Longchamps,
Bruxelles-Ixelles.

Dear Mr. Heinemann,

I have been staying longer in Holland than I thought. This is the reason why I did not write earlier to you to thank you for your very kind hospitalities and those extremely interesting days I spent with you at Bruxelles.

I hope very much that I shall meet you on board the "Empress of Britain" and I will look out for you at Cherbourg. The Revd. Professor Barry of Huntingdon Seminary where I stayed many months wrote to me that he is sailing in the same ship. He is a very dear friend of mine and I hope it will not annoy you.

In the meanwhile, the political situation has become very cloudy again and nobody can predict what will happen. I have the impression that the Cabinet, here, is again in a vacillating on account of the Far-Eastern crisis, but I still have the hope that Jussolini through his journey to Germany will have a moderating influence upon Hitler, although outwardly it appears he is playing for high stakes.

I hope M. van Zeelande will get through his difficulties. It would be a bad policy for Belgium if he had to resign at present.

Yours sincerely,

H. Brining

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

28
Davis - HK.
Belgium

Mr. Davis is going to Brussels to represent this country at a meeting of the Signatories of the Nine Power Treaty, in response to an invitation issued by the Belgian Government. The purpose of the conference is in conformity with the pledge made by the parties to the Nine Power Treaty to have full and frank exchange of views with regard to the Far Eastern situation. In the language of the invitation to which this Government is responding, the Powers will examine the situation in the Far East and study a peaceable means of hastening an end of the regrettable conflict which prevails there.

As I said in my radio broadcast on the evening of October twelfth - "The purpose of this conference will be to seek by agreement a solution of the present situation in China. In our efforts to find that solution, it is our purpose to cooperate with the other Signatories to this Treaty, including China and Japan."

Mr. Davis will enter the conference without any commitments on the part of this Government.

[Nov. 1937]

dated
[Oct. 19. 37] in
Press Conference
CKS - 1-7-69

*file
personal*

DAVE H. MORRIS
18 EAST 70TH STREET
NEW YORK

Belgium

THE WHITE HOUSE

December 24, 1937.

DEC 25 12 06 PM '37

RECEIVED

Dear Franklin,

I am enclosing you excerpt of a paragraph from a letter I have just received from Brussels, from a well known American banker there. It may be of interest to you.

I am so sorry to see by the papers that Eleanor has flown to Seattle because of the illness of your daughter Anna. I do hope it is nothing serious and that she will soon be well. I know Eleanor will make the grandchildren very happy at Christmas time and this will compensate you for her absence on this feast day. Of course, I have a special interest in these grandchildren of yours as they are full second cousins of my Morris grandchildren. Does not that make the grandfathers some relation to each other?

Yours, as ever,

D. H. M.

Encl.

To The Honorable

Franklin D. Roosevelt

The White House

Washington, D. C.

Personal.

"The Finance Councillor of the City of Berlin spent yesterday with me here in Brussels. I told him my views very frankly and he swallowed them gracefully without showing any signs of indigestion. Although he occupies a high rank in the Nazi organization (he wears a black uniform, but not over here) he is also of the opinion that the present position will not be ever-lasting. But he made no prophecy as to the exact date when it will end. He thinks the Führer is not mentally quite normal."