

● PSF Ethiopia

Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt
President
The White House

757 Ethiopia
DESSYE: DECEMBER 12, 1935
Ethiopia

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Private
Confidential
Ethiopia
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My Dear Mr. Roosevelt:

We have heard here over the radio that the American people were horrified at the news of the terrific bombing of this town and the hospital and American Mission. It seems incredible but I was right in the midst of the whole affair and saw what happened and there can be no doubt but that the bombs were aimed at us.

Early Friday morning just as I was dipping into the hot water to shave in front of my tent we heard the ominous droning of heavily motored airplanes. We have all been here so long without anything really happening that at first no one actually grasped the fact that it was the Italians who were coming. I ran out and stood by a fence to see. Over the mountains to the northeast through a low pass were coming four huge trimotored monoplanes. Against the green and brown of the mountain side the silver ships glistened beautifully as they swept in upon us in perfect formations. As I watched them come, they were very slow being heavily loaded and old, I saw a large black object detach itself and descend from the leading plane in a long slow parabola. It lit near the small unused airport just below us. There was a tremendous crash and a column of dirt and smoke shot up into the air. There was no doubt. The Italians were on top of us. Behind the four leading planes came two more formations of three each.

After that first bomb we scarcely had time to think. Machine guns began to chatter. The heavy droning of the ships above echoed and reechoed in this mountain bowl. The crash of bombs, the coughing matter of the antiquated anti aircraft on the hills above us, the shots from the old rifles and shotguns and revolvers of the natives and the shouts and cries of the population dashing for shelter made an indescribable din. Mules and donkeys and dogs terrified ~~from~~ by the noise from which they could not escape tore madly along the roads and crashed through fences. Everyone in that first few minutes of shock and surprise ran about wildly. Cameramen were yelling for their lenses but

their Ethiopian helpers had scurried for safety. Journalists were running for glasses and cameras and safety. But there was no safety. I jumped into our truck intending to drive into town but was stopped by Linton Wells the Herald Tribune correspondent who had been in town when the planes arrived. He was wildly excited and yelled at me that the town was mad, that the people were shooting and that a bullet had torn his coat. There was no doubt about that either. I stopped and together with Al Waldron Fox Movietone photographer, incidentally from Washington, ran for the hospital. We thought we could get onto the roof and see into the town from there. But just as we got out of the truck an incendiary bomb fell two feet behind. It burnt the truck and sent it into a lurch. I got back in and drove it along side the hospital. But that was not safe however I left it there. Bombs were dropping all around us both incendiary and high explosive. I heard the patients in the hospital crying wildly. There were some sixty odd mainly old men and women with leprosy and other horrible diseases. The hospital workers had run away. So with Sorrenson and Stadin the missionaries I helped carry out the patients. Five bombs dropped squarely on the hospital while I was in it. One lit in the anteroom to the operating room and burning in a corner destroyed a case containing most of the operating instruments. We could not put the bomb out as it contained some sort of chemical which flared up fiercely when water was thrown on it. A second bomb fell in a small back room containing four patients. I won't describe that. Outside bombs were falling all around. An incendiary hit a Red Cross tent also containing instruments and burnt it to the ground. I counted forty-three bombs in all which fell within the Mission compound.

In the town the confusion was terrible. Heavy explosive bombs weighing at least a hundred kilograms were thrown everywhere especially at the center which is just a crossroads of badly cobbled streets. Incendiaries were falling like rain. Tukuls, native grass thatched huts, were afire all over. Heavy black and yellow smoke poured up and covered the town with a dense pall. And continuously above us for more than one hour was that fearful menacing droning of the trimotors. explosive bombs fell all about the old palace, near the Italian consulate and just below the Mission.

Smaller explosive bombs dropped everywhere. The dull boom of explosions, the chatter of machine guns both on the ground and in the planes, the shrieks and cries of the wounded and the wild yells of the shooting warriors beat about us and made a racket and uproar I will not soon forget. It was terrible and frightening.

The planes went off towards the southeast and for a few minutes we had a breathing spell. The wounded and dying began to come in carried by their relatives or hobbling and crawling as best they could. White shamed figures with horrible great spreading red patches on the white garments streamed past us. Women and children and old men cut and torn and broken. Ununderstanding, frightened, moaning they filed past like sheep. The guns ceased firing and a deathly silence settled over the town. Then the wild wailing of women crying for their dead rose from the smoke and dust. It was heartrending and terrible.

Then from the south we saw and heard the planes returning. That second attack was far worse than the first in its moral effect. The first came so quickly and unexpectedly that we had no time in which to think or be afraid. But the second time! By then we had felt the force of the bombs, seen people blown to bits and houses torn apart. We had seen the fires and smelt the smoke and stench of roasting flesh. We knew what was coming. And that second was an even fiercer attack than the first. There was a perfect rain of bombs, big and small explosive and incendiary. Machine guns were fired at us from the air and the falling bullets of the Ethiopians guns were nearly as dangerous. Screaming people ran madly to escape a death which was everywhere. Women cowered over their children by the roadside trying to protect them. I later saw one such poor mother who with her two children had been completely decapitated. Then after an hour and a quarter of steady bombardment and machine gunning the planes went away northwards towards Asmara. Behind them they left the most terrible, the most horrible destruction I have ever seen or ever want to see.

Captain Mickey, an Irishman working here with the Red Cross, came and wanted someone with a truck to drive him into the town, we were only five hundred yards away, to gather up the wounded. I volunteered. Together with Waldron we went in being the

first whitemen into the town. Of course we had to go but it was sickening. Dead and mangled everywhere. Trucks burning and wrecked buildings. Mules with their insides strewn over the streets and spattered about. Legs and bits of people here and there. Horrible smells and frightened cries. Threats from the people who only knew that they had seen their own broken and mangled by whites from the air and that we were white. We made pictures and notes and gathered up wounded and rushed them back to the hospital and then started again. Behind us this time followed the Paramount truck. Just beyond the crossroads we in front heard wild yells from behind. I stopped and a bullet thudded into the Ethiopian interpreter beside me. He slumped shot through the arms the bone sticking out in several places. Behind us in the other truck a French correspondent George Goyon was shot through the leg just above the knee. Vargas the Hearst cameraman had a bullet pass between his legs singing his trousers. We rushed our wounded back where my man had his arm amputated an operation which killed him. Examining the truck we found two bullet holes in it. We were fired on by Ethiopians in the town. But I cannot find it in my heart to blame them. I was too ashamed of being white after seeing what other whites had just done to what to all intents and purposes amounts to a defenceless town.

Back at the Mission I found the Red Cross and hospital jammed beyond capacity. The Doctors could not cope with the wounded streaming in. The Ethiopian members of the Red Cross were practically useless as I had thought that they would be. Confused and terrified they ran about aimlessly. Many were missing altogether. So I pitched in to help. Having had experience in Dr Grenfell's hospitals on the Labrador and much on expeditions I could give chloroform and ~~stitch~~ stitch up people and bandage. With a German doctor and a Polish assistant talking in broken French I helped care for one hundred and eleven cases. I gave forty odd chloroforms. For more than nine hours we worked without food or smokes cleansing, bandaging sewing operating on women and children and old people. Out of the total killed and wounded only five soldiers were wounded. All the rest were unhappy, inoffensive civilians. As they sat and lay about the dressing tent dumb and ununderstanding with pain shining in their eyes I could

not help but wonder what it was all about. Why was it that women had to have their legs smashed off, their breasts torn away with bomb splinters? Why did little children have to be brought to me blinded by incendiary bombs their faces and thin bodies burnt and pitted by flying chemicals? What had happened to the world outside that I a whiteman should be ~~see~~ sewing up dark bodies or cutting off dark limbs which had been mangled and hurt by other whitemen? Was this a true example of the great white civilization of which we had been taught to be so proud?

There can be no doubt but that the attack on the hospital was deliberate. "Which is inexplicable for several reasons. First there was a large ~~r~~ed Cross painted on the roof of the hospital. I saw it myself as I crawled onto the roof to examine the holes made through it by incendiary bombs. It is true that the paint was oldish and that the cross probably did not show up well. But there were other red crosses about on buildings and on small flags lying on the ground. Suppose, however, that these could not be seen. Suppose that all the aviators could see from above was the journalists collection of tents and trucks in the Mission compound. From above the tents of our encampment and that of the Red Cross which adjoined us might have looked like a military encampment. However the second and most damaging evidence against the Italians is the fact that for years there has been an Italian consulate in Dessye. The building is only some four hundred yards from the end of the Mission compound. Now both Mission and Consulate have been side by side for years. The Italian consul Doctor Breillé was often treated in the Mission hospital by Doctor Stadin. It is inconceivable that, after all the careful detailed reports which were sent out of Ethiopia by the Italians stationed here, that the existence of this Mission and its exact situation should not have been known and what is more marked on the maps which the Italian aviators were carrying.

It is possible to say that because the Mission was and is so close to the Italian Consulate in which the Emperor was living that the bombs which fell on the Mission were really intended for the Consulate in an endeavor to kill the Emperor. But the ~~accuracy~~ accurate shooting done on the old palace and on the center of town does not bear this out. Those aviators flying in those slow ships above us knew their

jobs and certainly could throw their bombs with precision. I have been all over town several times and around the palace checking and those Italian boys were good.

It was something to witness and experience and write about. The Italians furnished the final touch just as they began the affair. One of the aviators riding in plane number ninety seven threw out a bottle containing this message:

" Hurrah for Italy. Hurray for Duce. Hurray for the King. We carry the tricolor the sign of the Lictors of Facism, the sign of the civilization of Rome. We salute you Negus, Haille Selassie. Did your umbrella do you any good today? How did you like our Biscuits? "

Finishing up my dressing, weary and tired and sick from the choleroform, I looked at the wounded lying about in the lamplight with red stained bandages tied about their limbs and bodies. The "sign of the civilization of Rome". I fell asleep a very disillusioned whiteman.

Saturday morning five more Italian planes droned up from out over the shimmering Danakil desert to the south and east. They were planes with single motors and black bodies and silver wings. That their coming nearly frightened us to death is putting it mildly. But they passed along the edge of town dropping only two huge explosive bombs and one crate of incendiaries. All missed. The planes went on north and attacked the Imperial guard camped twenty-five miles from here dropping more than eighty big bombs only thirty-five of which exploded. This has been true of all the Italian bombs. So far as we can check not more than fifty percent have exploded. They must have been made of very poor material or in a great hurry. Or possibly they have gotten damp in the rainy season. Had all the bombs which were dropped exploded there would have been very little left of us or of Dessye.

I have sent Isabella two packets of splinters from the bombs and an incendiary case. The steel of the bombs is nearly an inch in thickness and when the bombs explode the steel tears making the most awful splinters. Everyone has an edge like a knife. As everyone of the splinters has been torn this way we have concluded that some

special grade or type of steel is being used in their construction. If this is true the Italians cannot very well make out a case against the Ethiopians because some of them fire dumdum bullets. Those splinters are far far worse than any lead bullet could ever be.

I have received a cable recalling me. It came just previous to the bombing and curiously enough was immediately followed by one ordering me to stay. Since the excitement I have received more orders to remain here for a time but as the story has continued for so long without any real news the papers are getting tired of the expense of keeping us all out here. For which I cannot blame them. It has been a most interesting experience for me. As I think I mentioned when I wrote to you before I left I wanted to come to see whether or not an African race could, in the face of threatened extinction, cooperate and organize themselves. To me this has been the most interesting aspect of this trip to Ethiopia. And I have reached the conclusion that even these Ethiopians, who are not negroes but who certainly have negroid blood in them, cannot organize without outside help. The best of them, those who have had European educations have a veneer of ability and civilization, but under stress it collapses. Without the guiding hand of such men here as Colson the American, The Greek Doctor and Colonel Heul the Belgian Military adviser and the others this country would have completely fallen apart in the face of the Italian threat. Revolution and intrigue and money grabbing would have broken down every semblance of government.

For Haile Selassie I cannot say too much. He is so superior to the average Ethiopian that it is difficult to believe that he is truly one of them. For dignity courage and courtesy I have never met his equal. And the calm way in which he passes through one crisis after another indicates that he has tremendous control. He actually worked a machine gun against the Italians, then was down amongst the wounded. He realized how much the correspondents' telegrams about the bombing did for his cause so last night he gave us a dinner. From where he produced the food and wine I cannot guess. But for Dessye, situated high amongst the peaks of Ethiopia far from the railway the dinner was exceptionally good. The correspondents turned up in khaki pants, sweaters and pull

overs. No one had anything decent to wear as we have been camping for nearly a month now. But it made no difference. In the funny old palace surrounded by bomb craters and unexploded bombs, in a room papered with the extreme in horrible red and green and yellow wall paper we were served by servants wearing revolvers and cartridge belts while guards stood about carrying rifles. Gasoline lanterns furnished the light. Behind the Emperor as he sat at the head of the table stood the canopy under which his throne is placed for audiences. The cheapest sort of Japanese prints decorated the walls. Even in such a setting the power and personality of the Emperor made itself felt. I do not think that there is a single correspondent here who has come into any contact with His Majesty who has not the most profound respect for him. I nearly wrote affection for everyone has the deepest sympathy for the man and all his troubles. I have dined four times at his table now twice with only two other whites present and I must say that of all the rulers I have met Haile Selassie is one of the most completely courteous and dignified and thoughtful.

There can be little doubt, however, that the only true solution of this Ethiopian problem would be to place Ethiopia under some form of international mandate. If they believe that they have won the war the Ethiopians will be set back at least a hundred years. Victory will be construed by them as a vindication of their policy of isolation from the white and more civilized portions of the world. Advance, education, sanitation, policing and such will be infinitely retarded. The Emperor I feel certain from conversations with him would be willing to agree to some form of League control. He has his own internal difficulties of which we have only a faint idea. The old reactionary group here are hard against him. International control through the Emperor would do much to strengthen his hands and make it possible for him to put through the reforms which he knows are necessary. Such international control would also pave the way for a gradual penetration of whites and the subsequent development of the resources of Ethiopia. These, at least the agricultural and pastoral resources, are very great and have scarcely been touched.

I have not written before because there was no real news to send and because there has been such a flood of "Ethiopian material in every publication that I believed you must have had more than enough news. But this I witness account of the actual bombing of the American Mission may be interesting. I hope so.

Now that I am returning I am faced with the grave problem of what I shall do. Africa I think is finished so far as I am concerned. The continent is still vastly interesting to me, of course, and always will be but I have children growing up and Africa is not a country for them. Education is impossible to obtain and making a living is almost equally as impossible. I have spent most of my money following up my scientific work in Rhodesia and I cannot any longer afford to continue that. I still believe in the worth of this work but it is too expensive and too long drawn out for anyone except a very rich man to pay for out of his own pocket. I have learned an enormous amount from these years in Africa but they do not seem to be able to do me much good except in one possible way.

Twelve years of intimate contact with negroes has given me an understanding of their problems. I have studied the problems of tropical agriculture, of tropical meat raising, of sanitation, housing and medication intensively for years. As you know I had my own laboratory on Ibamba. I have lived through three different types of British Colonial administration and have studied the South African and Portuguese systems of governing natives. Now I have added to this experience nearly half a year of study of the Ethiopians.

America I have felt for some time has a distinct lack of men who have had colonial experience and who are fitted to take up administrative and other work in our colonial possessions. Before I left for this trip to Ethiopia I had thought very seriously of applying for some sort of work in our West Indies. I once lived on Dominica for several months and the problems of those islands and islanders have interested me ever since. Now as I look forward to returning to America the thought occurs to me that the spot in which my years of experience in Africa could be turned to the greatest advantage would be in the Virgin Islands. So I am venturing to take

the very great liberty of asking you if you think that there might be some position in the government administration of the Virgin Islands which I could fill? I cannot think of a type of work which would be of more interest nor one which I could do to better advantage. I hope that I am not presuming in making such a request and that you will not be offended.

Not knowing exactly when I shall return I cannot give you any address here. I shall certainly be gone from Dessye before long and I scarcely think that I shall be in Addis Abeba for more than a week or two at the most. I shall miss Christmas with my family which is a very unhappy situation. We spent last Christmas alongside the oil dock in Trinidad. I believe I sent you a card from there. Although this will be very late may I wish you a very happy christmas and an even happier New Year.

believe me most sincerely

Wynant

(Hubbard)
excuse. Ink I found
knocked over by
explosions.

Permanent address
% Francis G. Hoyt
22 East 40 street
New York City

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON D C.

FOR: Ethiopia
Paule - file
24/12/35

December 26, 1935.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

According to the best available information the number of Italian troops in East Africa is as follows:

1. The Eritrean Army, under Marshal Pietro Badoglio, is based on the Port of Massaua, has penetrated as far as Makale. Its distribution is as follows:

Regular Army divisions:

"Gavinana"	17,000	
"Sabauda"	17,000	
"Gran Sasso"	17,000	
"Sila"	<u>17,000</u>	
Total	68,000 --	68,000

Corps troops (artillery, engineers, tanks, etc.) 53,000

Facist Divisions:

23d March	13,000	
28th October	13,000	
21st April	13,000	
3d January	13,000	
1st February	<u>13,000</u>	
Total	65,000 --	65,000

Air Force 2,500

Total white 188,500

Troops native:

The number of native troops has been difficult to check. Two divisions are known to be present on the Northern Front and numerous detachments. The best available estimate is 60,000. The total military strength on the Northern Front is, therefore, approximately 248,500.

Added to the military force are Italian laborers to the

number of some 30,000, about 5,000 other foreign laborers and an indeterminate number of native workmen.

2. On the Somaliland Front, under General Rodolfo Graziani, is a force based on Mogadicio which has penetrated to Gorahai. Its composition is as follows:

"Peloritani Division"	17,000
Corps Troops	<u>10,000</u>
Total Italian	27,000
Native	40,000
Workmen, Italian	?
Workmen, native - indeterminate	

At Assab is stationed a small force of about one battalion of Italian troops, a battalion of native troops and a small group of artillery.

The Tevere Regular Army Division, with the strength of about 17,000, has been mobilized in Italy and is said on good authority to be embarking shortly for the Somaliland Front.

The following Facisti organizations (of groups of battalions of a strength of about 4,000 each) have left or are preparing to leave for Africa: Diamanti, Mantagna and a group of four separate battalions.

From the best information available, the Italians have a maximum of 250 planes on the Northern Front and about 50 on the Somaliland front.

The normal division organization in Africa is as follows:

- Headquarters and Headquarters Company
- One group of Carabinieri
- One medical section
- One subsistence section
- One motor transport section
- One ammunition train
- One signal company
- One engineer regiment - 1,000 to 1,500
- One tank company
- Three regiments of infantry - 3 bns. of 800
- One regiment of artillery - 3 groups 75 pk.Hov.
- 1 group 100/17 motor Hov.

A total of 17,000 with a fighting strength of about 14,500.

3. The Ethiopian forces comprise about 10,000 Belgian-trained Imperial Guard, 50,000 irregular troops and an undetermined number of tribal levies, equipped with about 200,000 modern rifles, 800 machine-guns, 700 automatic rifles, 24 anti-aircraft guns, 3 batteries of German mountain guns and 9 planes. They have about 400 trucks, a few radios and probably about 120,000,000 cartridges. They are supposed to be disposed as follows:

On the Northern Front, opposite the Italian right, which is under General Maravigna, is Rass Ayalau with about 50,000. Opposite the Italian center, which is under General Biroli, are Rass Imru and Rass Kassa who are supposed to have nearly 100,000 troops. Opposite Santini, on the Italian left, is Rass Seyum, Governor of Tigre Province, with about 75,000. On the extreme left of the Italian line, some 40,000 more Ethiopians are reported.

In the South, opposite General Graziani, are reported, from west to east-, Bayahamoud with 25,000, Desta Dentu with 75,000, in the Shiboli River valley. Then in the vicinity of Harrar and Jigiga is Rass Nazibu, with Vehib Pasha as his Chief of Staff, with about 80,000.

4. The following casualties were reported by the Italians up to December 1st:

Killed:

Italian officers	4
Italian enlisted men	9
Native	92

Wounded:

Italian officers	7
Italian enlisted men	11
Native	145

Total deaths, all causes:

Military	241
Italian workmen	229
Native workmen	?

Since December 1st there have been several reports of casualties of greatly increased severity. In one fight, for instance, south of Axum the Italians reported about 300 killed, and there has been continuous skirmishing all along both fronts.

A. D. S.

File Ethiopia B+

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 7, 1936

My dear Mr. President:

With reference to your recent request for further information regarding the military situation in Ethiopia, I enclose a copy of a telegram received today from Mr. Engert, our Chargé d'Affaires at Addis Ababa. In this telegram Mr. Engert stresses the difficulty of obtaining reliable military information at Addis Ababa, particularly since the departure of the Emperor for his military headquarters at Dessye. However, Mr. Engert points out that the newly appointed Military Attaché, Captain Meade, who arrived at Addis Ababa on December 10 and left for Dessye by mule caravan on December 26, will doubtless report from there in the near future. Meanwhile, the Chargé d'Affaires will send forward within the next few days his own personal impressions of the military situation.

In view of the absence of adequate means of communication between the war zones and the capital, I appreciate that it is not an easy matter for Mr. Engert

to

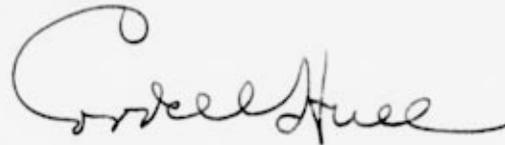
The President,

The White House.

to obtain reliable information at Addis Ababa. I feel confident, however, that he is doing his utmost in the matter, for he has all along done splendid work under most difficult and trying circumstances.

Faithfully yours,

Enclosure:
From Addis Ababa,
Telegram No. 8,
January 5, 8 p. m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cordell Hull". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed text.

Department of State

BUREAU
DIVISION

NE

ENCLOSURE

TO

Letter drafted _____

ADDRESSED TO

The President

JS

~~XXXX~~

ADDIS ABABA (VIA N R).

Dated January 5, 1936

Rec'd 6th 7:37 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

8, January 5, 8 p.m.

Your 2, January 4, 3 p.m.

Greatly regret delay in forwarding supplementary military report due to the unusual difficulties in obtaining prompt and accurate information from various sources since the Emperor left the Capital. Ethiopian communiques which I have been forwarding by mail are almost worthless in arriving at an estimate of the situation as a whole while Government sources maintain utmost secrecy regarding military affairs. Italian and Ethiopian versions of the same event are often flatly contradictory and communications are so slow and uncertain that even the Government frequently receives reports only a week or two after the incidents they describe. For example, the Government announced today some Italian bombings which took place December 26 but without giving any details. And it took the British Minister who is in charge of Swedish interests, from December 30 until yesterday to ascertain the name of the Swede who was killed near Dolo.

I have no hesitation in saying that 75 per cent of the newspaper reports which have gone out from here regarding
military

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From Addis Ababa, Jan. 5, #8.

military events have been pure guesswork and padding. I assume the Department would not wish me to duplicate such information by telegraphing rumors which are ^{current} current in great profusion. The Department will, I believe, find that I have striven to put accuracy above all else in my reporting.

I should perhaps add that I had naturally expected to enlist the cooperation of the Military Attache in bringing my report up to date but as he felt even more strongly than I that little military information of value could be collected here he left for Dessye and will doubtless report from there.

However, in order not to disappoint the Department, I am incorporating some personal impressions of the present military situation in a brief report which will reach you in a few days.

ENGERT

JS
HoL

file
personal

Ethiopia - 1936
Dossier 2
P 5 F

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
January 10, 1936.

My dear Mr. President:

It was most kind of you to send me your good wishes for Christmas and the New Year, and my staff and I appreciate them deeply.

The generous terms in which you are good enough to refer to the Legation's work here are most encouraging and we shall all strive hard to merit them. Your own unremitting efforts on behalf of the welfare of the nation have been a great inspiration to us, and we have become accustomed to look to you for unselfish guidance in our task of upholding the honor and interests of the United States in these remote parts.

Permit me to refer in particular to your wise restraint and calm appraisal of all the facts in an international situation of immense complexity. Viewed from the vantage ground of this capital the clear-headed prudence of the American Government amidst the saber-rattling in Europe has been a reassuring beacon. Although it may be a case of righteous men crying in the wilderness, the great moral authority which is ours because we have renounced all desire for imperialistic conquests and wish for neither power nor domination over others, is bound to make itself felt. Having ourselves once fought to end war we look with horror upon this mad and anachronistic adventure and have no desire to become involved in it.

Although your and Secretary Hull's disinterested warnings seem to have fallen on deaf ears, I feel convinced that so long as we are willing to "strive against disorder and aggression" - as you have so well said in your Thanksgiving Proclamation - and refuse to aid nations which are at war, you will be able to help in leading mankind towards security and prosperity. For even the most

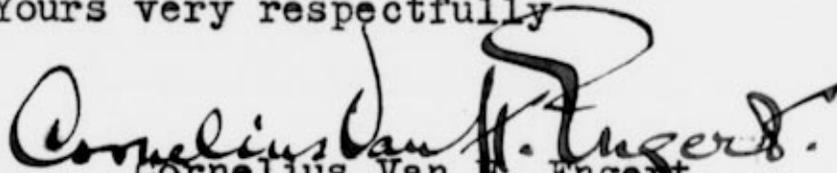
The President,

The White House.

rigid regimentation of independent thought will not permit a dictator lightheartedly to disregard the disapproval of the public opinion of the world, if all those who have the cause of international justice at heart will seek earnestly to check the wrongful use of force.

The world is clearly once more at some sort of parting of the ways. Forces which make for war seem today to be again in the ascendant, and the very framework of western civilization may be in danger of collapse. Pious professions of peaceful policies have not been able to prevent the unilateral repudiation of solemn treaties and the resort to violence. You have faithfully interpreted the average American's fears of foreign entanglements, but you have also shown that unprovoked aggression is a matter of concern to the whole world. The American people believe with you that spiritual forces are, in the long run, more powerful than mere physical force in bringing about honorable rules of conduct between governments. Some day, we firmly hope, when world conscience has become thoroughly aroused and is properly organized, moral suasion will suffice to suppress war. But in the meantime it is under high-minded leadership such as yours that greater spiritual unity among nations and a new philosophy of international life must be achieved if all we cherish most in our heritage is not to perish.

With renewed thanks for your courteous greetings
I remain, my dear Mr. President,
Yours very respectfully


Cornelius Van H. Engert
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

PSF. Ethiopia
P.T.
File Ethiopia

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 12, 1936

My dear Mr. President:

On May 9, 1936, we instructed Mr. Engert, the Minister Resident at Addis Ababa, to give us, after careful investigation, the benefit of his best judgment as to whether it could be said that there was no longer any recognized military opposition to the Italian forces in Ethiopia. It was explained to Mr. Engert that this information was desired for use in considering the possible revocation of the proclamation of October 5, 1935, placing an embargo on the shipment of arms, ammunition and implements of war to Italy and Ethiopia.

On May 17 Mr. Engert reported that it could hardly be said that the war had definitely ended although the Italian Government was most anxious to create such an impression. In this connection Mr. Engert pointed out that some of the Italian footholds in the North were by no means secure and that penetration of Italian troops
into

The President,

The White House.

into the Southern area was bound to be hazardous and slow. On the other hand, he expressed the opinion that organized military operation in the modern sense was unlikely to develop on a large scale. At the same time he pointed out that there were still a number of Ethiopian leaders in the field with guerilla bands but it was impossible to estimate their strength. Under these circumstances Mr. Engert suggested that action in the matter be deferred until the situation had become more clarified.

On June 4, 1936, instructions were sent to Mr. Engert requesting such further reports from time to time with respect to the military situation as might help throw light upon the subject discussed above. On the following day Mr. Engert replied that Italian forces could not be said to be in complete control anywhere South of the Ninth Parallel and West of the Fortieth Meridian except along the Djibouti-Addis Ababa railway. He added that there appeared to be no Italian troops South of the Blue Nile and that the Westernmost point so far occupied in central Ethiopia was the town of Ambo, some fifty-five miles West of Addis Ababa. Mr. Engert stated, moreover, that the Italians had made no effort to penetrate into vast areas in the Southwest of the country and that the

Italian

Italian authorities had been unable to accede to the request of the Belgian Minister for the evacuation of eight Europeans located on coffee plantations only fourteen miles by road from one of the railway stations not far from Addis Ababa. The Minister Resident also stated that his repeated inquiries concerning the welfare of American missionaries in the Southern and Southwestern part of the country had always been met with the reply that the Italian authorities had no information concerning the situation in that area and that they were not prepared to send any troops there.

From the foregoing description it would appear that the Italians are not in control of the area marked in purple on the enclosed map. It will be observed that this area amounts to approximately one-third of the territory of Ethiopia.

Mr. Engert reports the receipt of information from some of the Western provinces indicating that local chieftains have set up governments in those areas and are keeping reasonably good order. Disarming of the natives has apparently been slow and unsatisfactory. For example, Mr. Engert was informed by Marshal Badoglio that only 400 rifles had been collected in Addis Ababa. Inasmuch as nearly every Ethiopian was accustomed to carrying

carrying a rifle of some sort the number collected at the capital is obviously extremely small. The proportion of rifles collected in the provinces is doubtless even smaller and reports are received that Italian convoys between Addis Ababa and Dessaye continue to be attacked.

Mr. Engert points out that he does not wish to convey the impression that properly constituted political entities exist and govern portions of the country in the name of the Emperor or that any large organized forces are in the field even in those areas where no Italian soldiers have so far penetrated. He observes, however, that certain obvious difficulties are just beginning for the Italians and that even if they are left by other Powers in undisturbed possession it may be six months or more before they will be able properly to garrison the whole country.

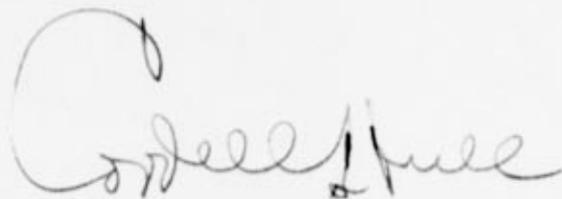
I learn informally that the War Department has no reports which throw any additional light upon the military situation in Ethiopia.

In view of the uncertainties of the situation and pending further clarification thereof we are of the opinion that it would be desirable to refrain from taking any action with respect to the revocation of the
proclamation

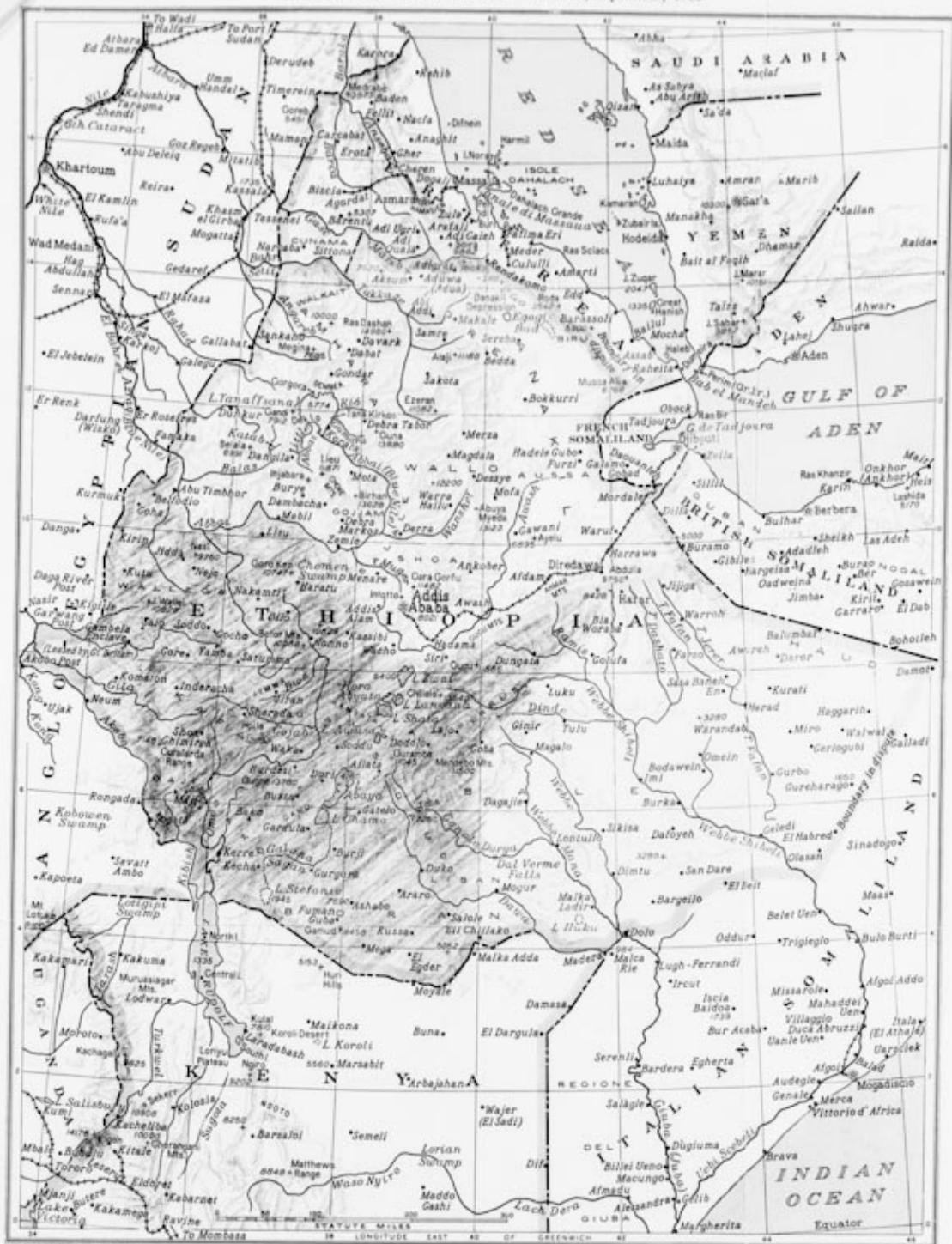
-5-

proclamation of October 5, 1935, establishing an embargo upon the shipments of arms to Italy and Ethiopia, until I report to you further.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cordell Hull". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Enclosure:



© National Geographic Society

INDEPENDENT ETHIOPIA, ANCIENT CHRISTIAN NATION, IS RINGED BY COLONIES OF ITALY, FRANCE, AND GREAT BRITAIN

Addis Ababa, the capital city, standing 8,000 feet above the coast level, is connected with the French port of Djibouti, on the Gulf of Aden, by rail, because the country has no outlet to the sea. Italians for months have been landing troops at Massaua, in Eritrea, and at Mogadiscio, in Italian Somaliland. A railroad rapidly being extended connects Massaua with Biscia.

Ethiopia
 Scale 1:7,500,000
 563a
 1935N
 copy 4

file Ethiopia

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 19, 1936.

My dear Mr. President:

In connection with the consideration of revoking your proclamations of October 5, 1935, and of February 29, 1936, admonishing American citizens not to travel on vessels of either belligerent and relating to the embargo against shipment of arms to Ethiopia and to Italy, there is submitted for your approval the draft of a statement which you may wish to make public at the time of issuing the proclamations to revoke the earlier ones.

The text of the proclamations themselves will be submitted tomorrow morning.

Faithfully yours,

Enclosure:
Draft of State-
ment to be made.

Cordell Hull

The President,
The White House.

STATEMENT TO BE MADE BY THE PRESIDENT AT
THE TIME OF ISSUING HIS PROCLAMATION
REVOKING EARLIER PROCLAMATIONS RE-
GARDING THE WAR BETWEEN ITALY AND
ETHIOPIA.

FOR DISTRIBUTION SATURDAY FOR PUBLICATION IN SUNDAY MORNING PAPERS

When it was ascertained that a state of war existed between Italy and Ethiopia I performed the duty imposed upon me by legislation theretofore enacted by issuing proclamations making effective an embargo on arms, ammunition and implements of war from the United States to the belligerent countries and admonishing American citizens to abstain from traveling on belligerent vessels. In doing so I was passing upon a question of fact. Having now ascertained that, in fact, the conditions which led to the issue of the proclamations have ceased to exist, I have, in conformity with the duty imposed upon me, issued proclamations revoking my earlier proclamations. Therefore the statements which I issued in respect to commercial transactions with the belligerents are no longer applicable.

June 19, 1936.

MEMORANDUM TO ACCOMPANY THE LETTER TO THE
PRESIDENT REGARDING THE ITALO-ETHIOPIAN
WAR SITUATION

The following quotation from Oppenheim's treatise on International Law, which represents the concensus of opinion of the authorities, shows the distinction between guerilla warfare and war between "two or more foreign States", as specified in the resolution of Congress:

" . . . one speaks of guerilla war or petty war when, after the defeat and the capture of the main part of the enemy forces, the occupation of the enemy territory, and the downfall of the enemy Government, the routed remnants of the defeated army carry on the contention by mere guerilla tactics. Although hopeless of success in the end, such petty war can go on for a long time, thus preventing the establishment of a state of peace, in spite of the fact that regular war is over and the task of the army of occupation is no longer regular warfare. Now, the question whether such guerilla war is real war in the strict sense of the term in International Law must, I think, be answered in the negative, for two reasons. First, there are no longer the forces of the two States in the field, because the defeated belligerent State has ceased to exist through the military occupation of its territory, the downfall of its established Government, the capture of the main part and the routing of the remnant of its forces. And, secondly, there is no longer in progress a contention between armed forces. For although the guerilla bands are

still

still fighting when attacked, or when attacking small bodies of enemy soldiers, they try to avoid a pitched battle, and content themselves with constantly harassing the victorious army, destroying bridges and railways, cutting off communications and supplies, attacking convoys, and the like, always in the hope that some event may occur which will induce the victorious army to withdraw. If, then, guerilla war is not real war, it is obvious that in strict law the victor need no longer treat the guerilla bands as a belligerent Power, and their captured members as soldiers. [He then goes on to state that he sees no advantage in treating them as criminals.]" (Ibid. 126.)

It is conceivable that guerilla warfare in Ethiopia may be carried on for sometime to come, as in the case of the Philippine Islands, following the Spanish American War and other similar situations.

PCF; Ethiopia - 1936

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

November 9, 1936.

A-M

Dear Judge Moore:

Following is a brief statement respecting our situation relative to Ethiopia:

1. We have no definite reason for believing that we shall be asked in the near future formally to recognize the Italian conquest of Ethiopia. In this connection it is important to recall that the Italian authorities raised no difficulty in accepting Mr. Phillips' letter of credence addressed only to the "King of Italy". It is true that subsequently the Italians have insisted that the credentials of the new French, Chilean and Finnish diplomatic representatives be addressed to the "King of Italy and Emperor of Ethiopia". It is understood that the Chilean Government will authorize its Ambassador, if necessary, to present letters bearing the title of "Emperor". This would indicate that the position of the Italian Government respecting Ethiopia is stiffening. At the same time it is to be remembered that the Italians have in several respects accorded us special treatment in Ethiopia and exhibited a disposition to be conciliatory toward us. Although the possibility of the Italians requesting formal recognition of the conquest by us is not to be excluded, I consider that they are much less likely to ask us to accord such recognition

than

than almost any other country.

2. At the present time we have in Ethiopia two career officers -- Mr. Engert, who acts as Minister Resident and Consul General, and Mr. Cramp, who serves as Third Secretary and Consul. They have no difficulty in their relations with the Italian authorities. On the contrary, those authorities have gone out of their way to accord special facilities and privileges to our representatives.

3. We contemplate withdrawing Mr. Cramp in the near future to enable him to take long deferred home leave and to transfer Mr. Engert as soon as possible, in any event not later than the spring, and to replace them by an officer holding only a consular commission.

4. One of the chief reasons for maintaining representation in Ethiopia is to extend such protection as may be possible to the approximately ninety American nationals still remaining in the country. In view of the fact that the Ethiopian situation may still develop factors dangerous to world peace it also seems desirable to be represented there in order that we may be kept informed of developments. Having maintained representation in Ethiopia throughout the recent warfare it would seem undesirable to withdraw our representation entirely until the situation becomes more clarified.

5. Other countries represented in Addis Ababa at the present time are: France, by a Minister; Great Britain, by a Chargé d'Affaires; Germany, by a Consul General; Belgium,

by

by a Chargé des Affaires; and Egypt, by a Consul. Our status with respect to Ethiopia is the same as that of all of these countries with the exception of Germany, which has granted full recognition to the Italian conquest.

6. Approximately ninety American nationals remain in Ethiopia. Practically all of these are medical or religious missionaries. More than half of this number reside in or near Addis Ababa, while some thirty-five are in the provinces, particularly in territory not yet occupied by the Italian forces. Most of these nationals stay on in Ethiopia because they consider their services are needed by the local population. In addition, those located in the provinces are for the most part unable to withdraw because of the danger attendant to passage over bandit-infested trails.

7. In view of the friendly attitude manifested toward us by the Italian authorities it seems unlikely that the Italians would ask us, if we replaced our present representation by a consular officer, to recognize Italian sovereignty. In this connection it of interest to note that the British Government has recently sent two consular officers to Ethiopia. In both cases the Italian Government was simply notified that these officers were being sent and visas were requested. Exequaturs for these consular officers were not obtained and their dispatch to Ethiopia apparently raised no question of recognition. From our information it appears that foreign consular officers serving in Ethiopia without exequaturs are not recognized by the

Italian

Italian authorities any more than are the so-called "ex-legations". Nevertheless these consular officers are able to do business with the Italian authorities. If, in notifying the Italians of our intention to send a consular officer to Addis Ababa, the question of the issuance of an exequatur should be raised, or if we should otherwise be requested to recognize Italian sovereignty, it would be obviously desirable for us to refrain from sending a new officer and to close down our representation entirely.

8. Although our total trade with Italy decreased slightly during the first eight months of 1936, as compared with 1935, the decline has not been great. Following are the figures of American-Italian trade for 1934 and 1935 and for the first eight months of 1935 and 1936:

Exports to Italy

	1934	\$64,578,000
	1935	72,450,000
Jan.-Aug.	1935	44,000,000
Jan.-Aug.	1936	38,900,000

Imports from Italy

	1934	\$35,749,000
	1935	38,672,000
Jan.-Aug.	1935	21,100,000
Jan.-Aug.	1936	23,100,000

Wm
Wallace Murray

Department of State

BUREAU | **PR**
DIVISION | _____

ENCLOSURE

TO

Letter drafted _____

ADDRESSED TO

Mr. McIntyre _____

November 10, 1936.

Memorandum for Pres.
From R. Walton Moore

Subject--Spain and Ethopia.
Attached Map ofSpain ***

SEE--R. Walton Moore-(S) Drawer 1--1936

For data from the War Dept. on the
Italo-Ethopian Controversy.

SEE--War Dept. Folder--(S) Drawer 1---1936

To Chief of Staff;

From F. H. Lincoln--War Dept.

Subject-The Italo-Ethopian Controversy

SEE--WAR--(S) Drawer 1---1936



IMPERIAL ETHIOPIAN LEGATION



President Franklin D. Roosevelt,

The White House,

Washington, D.C.,

U.S.A.

Your Imperial Majesty:

I have received with great pleasure your kind letter of May 1, 1942 and thank you for your gracious remarks in regard to the American people.

It is a source of much satisfaction to me and to the people of the United States that your country, which fought so courageously against a ruthless enemy, has regained its independence and self-government. The steadfast friendship of the American people and their sympathy with you in your period of trial will continue to be manifested during the days of reconstruction now facing your country. It is my sincere hope that you and the gallant people of Ethiopia, while determined as ever to defend your land and willing to share in the joint sacrifices which will be required of us in restoring law and order in international relations, will now be free to resume once again the labors of peace and to harvest in bountiful measure the fruits of justice and good deeds.

In this spirit I send you greetings.

Your Good Friend,

His Imperial Majesty
Haile Selassie I,
Emperor of Ethiopia,
Addis Ababa.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

July 11, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. McINTYRE:

The American Legation at Cairo has forwarded to the Department a letter addressed to the President by His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I, Emperor of Ethiopia, which is enclosed herewith, together with a copy in translation, and a copy of the transmitting despatch.

I am also enclosing a draft of a suggested reply to His Imperial Majesty for the President's signature. If the President approves the draft, and if you will return it to me, I shall be glad to have it forwarded to the American Legation at Cairo for appropriate delivery.

G.T.S.
George T. Summerlin.

Enclosures:

Draft letter;
Despatch from Cairo
with enclosure.





AMERICAN LEGATION
CAIRO

For
The President
From
The Emperor of Ethiopia

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Cairo, May 18, 1942

No. 387

Subject: Transmission of Letter from Haile Selassie I,
Emperor of Ethiopia to President Franklin D.
Roosevelt.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit to the Department, for forwarding to the White House, the letter, dated May 1, 1942, referred to in the Legation's telegram No. 760 of May 12, 1 p.m., 1942, from Haile Selassie I, Emperor of Ethiopia, to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. A translation of the letter furnished by the Emperor's representative TSEFAYE Tegagn when he presented the original is also enclosed, as well as copies thereof for the Department's files.

A brief telegraphic report of the activities of TSEFAYE Tegagn during his visit to Cairo was contained in the Legation's telegram No. 777 of May 15, 1942.

Respectfully yours,

A. KIRK

Alexander Kirk

Enclosures:

- 1/ Letter from Emperor Haile Selassie to President Roosevelt
- 2/ Translation of 1/ furnished by Emperor's representative.
- 3/ Copies of translation.

Sent in triplicate.

file no. 710.

JEJ/wbs

(LITERAL COPY)

Enclosure No. 3 to despatch No. 387 of May 18 1942
from the American Legation, Cairo, Egypt.

CONQUERING LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH
HAILE SELLASIE I,
ELECT OF GOD, EMPEROR OF ETHIOPIA.

TO

HIS EXCELLENCY FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT
President of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Peace be unto You.

Mr. President,

The distinguished President Roosevelt, Your predecessor and relative, had said of my country that Ethiopia is a state as well as a nation, and that this nation should not be effaced from the world. These hopes have today been realized. My country has regained her self-government and independence. Ethiopia has recovered her independence firstly through God and secondly through her friends the British. Moreover, Mr. President, she has recovered it through You and your great people.

In this respect we cannot forget the assistance You have rendered and the sympathy and friendship which You expressed during the period of our struggle for life and independence. Your country has confirmed to us through its action during the time of our difficulties that it is the guardian of true justice and good deeds. Your country has never recognized the Empire which Italy acquired by force, or the fruit of aggression. This has been to us great comfort and we shall never forget it. It will remain in the heart of Ethiopians from generation to generation. For this reason therefore, allow me to express to You the heartfelt thanks and indebtedness of myself and my people.

At this moment when Ethiopia is having her wounds dressed, war is consuming the world like fire, and spreading its work of destruction has reached Your great country. Nevertheless You have done everything to save the world from the terrible scourge. What have you not done, what have you not accomplished to this end? The renowned Messages which You sent forth to prevent war, and your heroic efforts

of

mediation failed to bear the fruit which they deserve. Your efforts have not been appreciated amongst the cruel, indeed they waged war upon You as is their custom by ruse and rejection of justice. And I marvel at the cool and steadfast stand which your people have made in the face of this affront. It is clear that when to day the American People are thoroughly moved they are so not only for their own independence, their own honour and their own life, but also for the independence, the honour and the life of other peoples. Ethiopia is solidly with your respected country and the gallant British people, and if necessary is prepared to accomplish the supreme sacrifice.

There is no doubt, Mr. President, as to how this war will end. God is ever on the side of true justice which we all follow. Ethiopia subjected to Fascist oppression is the first country to recieve true justice. Her conscince had been calm. Similary God will in the near future show us the victory of the true justice the destruction of war-mongers, and the restoration of the independence of peoples who have fallen beneath the yoke of slavery. In this we have deep and certain confidence.

Written in Addis-Abeba; this twenty third day of Mazia, in the Year of Grace One thousand nine hundred and thirty-four. (1st. May 1942)

Signed) HAILE SELASSIE I.
EMPEROR.



ሞግ፡ እንበሳ፡ ዘእምነገደ፡ ይሁዳ።

ቀዳማዊ፡ ኃይለ፡ ሠላሴ።

ሠዩመ፡ እግዚአብሔር፡ ንጉሠ፡ ነገሥት፡ ዘኢትዮጵያ።

ሐክቡር፡ ፍሬንክስ፡ ሩሲያ።

የአሜሪካ፡ ዩናይትድ፡ ስቴት፡ መንግሥት፡ ፕሬዚዳንት።

ሰካም፡ ኮርሰዎ፡ ይሁን።

ክቡር፡ ፕሬዚዳንት።

ከርሰዎ፡ እስቀድሞ፡ የነበሩት፡ እጅግ ሰመ፡ ጥሩ፡ የሆኑ፡
ዘመድዎ፡ ፕሬዚዳንት፡ ሩሲያ፡ ስሐ፡ እገራ፡ ይህን ጭል፡ ጽፈው፡ ነበር።

“ኢትዮጵያ፡ መንግሥትና፡ ሕዝብ፡ ናት። ይህ መንግሥት ይ”

“ህም፡ ሕዝብ፡ ከግሳም፡ ሳይ፡ እንደደጠፉ፡ ማድረግ፡ አስፈላጊ፡ ነው።”

እነዚህ ምኞቶች፡ እነሆ፡ ዛሬ፡ ተፈጻሚ። አገራም፡ በራሱ፡ ተገዥነትን
ና፡ ነጻነትን፡ እንደገና፡ አገኘ። ኢትዮጵያ፡ ይህን ነጻነትዋን፡ መጀመሯ፡ ከ
እግዚአብሔር፡ ቀጥሎም፡ በወደጀቻችን፡ በእንግሊዞች፡ ለደተነት፡ አገኘች።
ከዚህም፡ በቀር፡ ክቡር፡ ፕሬዚዳንት፡ ሆይ፡ ከርሰዎና፡ ከፍ፡ ካላው፡ ሕዝብ
ዎ፡ አግኝቷል።

ሰሐዚሁም፡ ደደረጉትን፡ አርዳታ፡ ለሕይወትና፡ ለነጻነት፡ ትግ
ል፡ ባደረግንበትም፡ ዘመን፡ የገሰጡትን፡ የኃዘንና፡ የወደጀነት፡ አሳብ፡
ከግ፡ ልንዘጋው፡ አንቸልም። በመከራችን፡ ጊዜ፡ አገርዎ፡ የእውነተኛው
ን፡ ፍርድ፡ ጠግቷልና፡ የበጎ፡ አድራጎቱን፡ አሳብ፡ በሠራው፡ አረጋግ

ጦልናል። ኢጣልያ፣ በኃይል፣ የያዘችውን ግዛት፣ በአፕቂነት፣ የተ
ገኘውን ፍሬ ለማወቅ፣ ከቀ፣ አልፎታል። ይህም ለኛ ታላቅ መ
ጽናኖችን፣ ነበር። እሰክ መቸውም፣ ቢሆን አንረሳውም። በኢትዮ
ጵያዎችም ልብ ከተውላድ ወደተውላድ እየተላከ ለፍጥነት፣ የሚኖር፣
ነው። ሰላላምም፣ ዛሬ፣ የእኔን የሐዘቤን፣ ጥልቅ የሆነ ምሥጋ
ና፣ የውሳኔም መላክነት፣ አሳብ እንደገልጥዎ ፈቃድ ይሁን።

እሁን፣ ኢትዮጵያ፣ ቀሳኳን ለማደን በምትታከምበ
ት ጊዜ፣ ጦርነት ግላምን እንደ እሳት እየበላ የአፕራኒቱን ለሠ
ራ ይቀጥላል። ከፍ ገላውም አገርዎ ላይ ወደቀ። ሰላም ግላም
ከዚህ ከሚያሰፈራ መከራ እንደደን ማናቸውንም ነገር ሁሉ
አድርገው ነበር። ለዚህ ሰምን እሳደረገም ምን ስራ ስላሠሩም።
ጦርነቱን ለማሰቀረት የሳኪቸው እጅግ የታወቁ መላክቶች
ጀግንነት የተመሳሰሉት ገላጋይነት የሚገባቸውን ፍሬ ሳይፈሩ
ቀሩ። የነዚህ ሁሉ ድካሞች ቁም ነገራቸው በጤናኖች ዘን
ድ ሲታወቁ አሳደሩም። እንደ ልማዳቸው በተንኮልና በእውነተ
ኛ ፍርድ ተገራነት ጦርነት አደረጉብዎት። በዚህም ዘቻ ራት ጀ
ግናዎ ሐዘብዎ ለመቋቋም የተነሳበትን እርጋታና ደመ በራድነ
ት ሰመሰከት እጅግ አደንቃሁ። ዛሬ የአሚሪካ ሐዘብ በመላ
ው ተነሥቶ ሲገኝ ለነጻነቱ ለክብሩና ለሕይወቱ ከመከላከል
በቀር ለሌሎችም ሐዘብ ነጻነት ከብርና ሕይወት ለመከላከል
መሆኑ የታወቀ ነው። ኢትዮጵያ በሙሉ ልብ ከተከበረው አገር
ና፣ ከጀግናዎች እንግዲህ ገራነት ገላጋይነት ጊዜ መጨረሻውን

መሥዋዕትነት፡ ለ መረጃም፡ የተዘጋጀች ነች።

ከቡር ጥሬዚዳን፤ ይህ ምርት፡ በምን ዓይነት እንደሚ
ጨረሰ፡ ፍጻሜው አይጠራጥርም። እግዚአብሔር ዘወትር፡ ከእውነተኛ
ፍርድ ጋራ ነው። እኛም ሁላችን የምንከተለው እውነተኛውን ፍርድ
ናው። በፋሺስት ተጠቅታ የነበረችው ኢትዮጵያ እውነተኛ ፍርድ
አይቀበልም። መጀመሪያ ሆነች። ሕሊናዋም የረገገ ነበር። እንደዚህ
ም፡ በሚመጣው ጊዜ፡ የእውነተኛን ፍርድ ድል አድራጊነት፤ የምርጫ
ጫራዎችን፡ ጥፋት፤ በግርዛት ቀምበር፡ የወደቁትንም፡ ሕዝብ ነጻነት፡
እግዚአብሔር ይሰጣል። ይህም ጥልቅ የሆነና የተረጋገጠ የምን
ተማመንን ለሰብ የምንገልጥበት ነው።

ሚያዝያ ፳፫ ቀን ፲፱፻፵፬ ዓመተ ምሕረት አዲስ

ሰ፡ አበግ ፡ ተጻፈ ።

Dr. *[Handwritten Signature]* *[Handwritten Name]* ኃይሌ

CONQUERING LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH
HAILE SELASSIE I,
ELECT OF GOD, EMPEROR OF ETHIOPIA.

TO
HIS EXCELLENCY FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT
President of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
Peace be unto You.

Mr. President,

The distinguished President Roosevelt, Your predecessor and relative, had said of my country that Ethiopia is a state as well as a nation, and that this nation should not be effaced from the world. These hopes have today been realized. My country has regained her self-government and independence. Ethiopia has recovered her independence firstly through God and secondly through her friends the British. Moreover, Mr. President, she has recovered it through You and your great people.

In this respect we cannot forget the assistance You have rendered and the sympathy and friendship which You expressed during the period of our struggle for life and independence. Your country has confirmed to us through its action during the time of our difficulties that it is the guardian of true justice and good deeds. Your country has never recognized the Empire which Italy acquired by force, or the fruit of aggression. This has been to us great comfort and we shall never forget it. It will remain in the heart of Ethiopians from generation to generation. For this reason therefore, allow me to express to You the heartfelt thanks and indebtedness of myself and my people.

At this moment when Ethiopia is having her wounds dressed, war is consuming the world like fire, and spreading its work of destruction has reached Your great country. Nevertheless You have done everything to save the world from the terrible scourge. What have you not done, what have you not accomplished to this end? The renounced Messages which You sent forth to prevent war, and your heroic efforts of mediation failed to bear the fruit which they

deserve. Your efforts have not been appreciated amongst the cruel, indeed they waged war upon You as is their custom by ruse and rejection of justice. And I marvel at the cool and steadfast stand which your people have made in the face of this affront. It is clear that when to day the American People are thoroughly moved they are so not only for their own independence, their own honour and their own life, but also for the independence, the honour and the life of other peoples. Ethiopia is solidly with your respected country and the gallant British people, and if necessary is prepared to accomplish the supreme sacrifice.

There is no doubt, Mr. President, as to how this war will end. God is ever on the side of true justice which we all follow. Ethiopia subjected to Fascist oppression is the first country to receive true justice. Her conscience had been calm. Similarly God will in the near future show us the victory of the true justice the destruction of war-mongers, and the restoration of the independence of peoples who have fallen beneath the yoke of slavery. In this we have deep and certain confidence.

Written in Addis-Abeba; this twenty third day of Mesia, in the Year of Grace One thousand nine hundred and thirty-four. (1st. May 1942)

(Signed)

HAILE SELASSIE I.

EMPEROR.

ዲ. ድረስ።

ለክብር. ፍራንክል. ሩሳሊያ።

የቡረቱ ድ. አስተታሰ. አጣጣሪ. ፍራንክል።

ዋጅንጥን።

(2523)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 11, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR
GENERAL ARNOLD

I am in full accord that Ethiopia should have two small transport planes. I am not concerned about the type but I want them to be able to do the work.

Will you please work this out and let the State Department know?

F. D. R.

Transmitting carbon of memorandum which the President received from the Secretary of State, 2/9/44, the original of which has been retained for our files.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON,
February 9, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

The Emperor of Ethiopia has expressed, through the Ethiopian Minister in Washington, an urgent desire to obtain from the United States two small transport planes for the use of his Government. In a letter to the Secretary of War dated December 15, 1943, the Department supported the Minister's application for two four-passenger aircraft of the C 45 (Beechcraft) type, pointing out the complete lack of air transport facilities within Ethiopia, the need of the Government for facilities of this character in order to maintain adequate security and administrative controls, and adding that for political reasons the Department hoped the application could be approved, provided the planes could be supplied without injury to the war effort. Meanwhile the Ethiopian Government had engaged the services of two American pilots who were familiar with conditions in Ethiopia and were competent to care for and operate the planes.

The Munitions Assignments Board nevertheless disapproved the application on the grounds that no military need for the planes had been established and that the planes were needed elsewhere. The War Department, in advising the Department of this decision, added, however, that the British members of the allocating committee had indicated that the British Government had turned down a similar Ethiopian request and that the British members had voted against the proposed allocation. The reason for the British Government's refusal was said to have been lack of British aircraft and pilots.

The Department has been reliably informed that although the C 45 aircraft were not available there were aircraft of an equivalent utility, the C 78's, which might have been released to meet the Ethiopian needs.

The Ethiopian Government attaches great importance to its request for the planes. The Department feels that it would be unfortunate if this Government were to have to refuse so modest a request so soon after having offered to aid Ethiopia in its efforts to rehabilitate the country and to contribute to the war effort. The urgent desire of the Emperor to obtain the planes and the advantages which the Department believes will accrue to the United States from granting the Ethiopian request impel me to bring this matter to your attention and to suggest that if you are of the same mind as the Department, you may wish to give me an indication of your interest in order that the case might be reopened with the War Department.

CA.

PSF Ethiopia - 1944



THE IMPERIAL PALACE,
ADDIS ABABA.
20th June, 1944.

Great and good Friend,

It was with keen pleasure and appreciation that We have received the excellent photograph of yourself sent on the occasion of the Third Anniversary of Our return to the Capital of Our Empire. We shall always cherish it as a daily reminder of the close ties of personal friendship which unite us and our two nations, in war as in peace.

May God grant to you continued health and ever His wise guidance in the momentous days which lie ahead.

Your good Friend.
F. D. Roosevelt

His Excellency Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States of America,
The White House,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

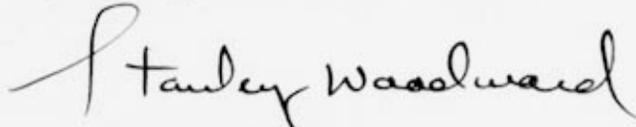
DIVISION OF PROTOCOL

July 24, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR MISS TULLY:

I am enclosing herewith a communication which the Emperor of Ethiopia has addressed to the President, thanking him for his autographed photograph.

It is regretted that through an inadvertency the Department's stamp was placed upon the communication.



Stanley Woodward
Chief, Division of Protocol

Enclosure:

Original signed letter
from the Emperor of
Ethiopia, June 20, 1944.

(3471)

Amc

Carbon of this memorandum, approved by the President, returned to the Secretary of State, 9/16/44.

Ethiopia folder 1-44

"C.H.
O.K.
FDR".

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

SEP 13 1944

~~TOP SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Shipment of Arms to Ethiopia.

On August 23, 1944, the Munitions Assignment Board approved the assignment to Ethiopia from surplus stocks of 5,000 rifles and a small amount of other military equipment which the Ethiopian Government has for several months been particularly anxious to obtain, in anticipation of the increased responsibility for maintaining internal security in Ethiopia which fell upon that country on August 25, 1944, with the termination of the Anglo-Ethiopian Agreement. The British members of the Board dissented on "political" grounds to this decision and have indicated their intention to carry the case to the Combined Chiefs of Staff. The British Embassy has taken the matter up with the Department and has indicated that the British objections are based on "security" considerations. The War Department and the Department of State are unable to admit the validity of the "security" arguments so far advanced by the British. While this modest request of the Emperor may, if granted, give him the ability to enforce order among his restless people, it is difficult to see how British security in north-eastern Africa could be vitally affected by the Emperor's possession of such a small amount of equipment.

It is reasonable to assume that the British, following a clearly defined historical policy applied to the area, are hoping to keep the Emperor dependent upon British support. If they are able to convince the Emperor that they can block any attempt by him to obtain needed military supplies from other than British sources, the Emperor will be forced to rely upon the British for the means with which to guarantee the internal security of Ethiopia.

The more immediate political objective of the British in attempting to block this assignment seems to grow out of the present attempt of the British to negotiate a new agreement to replace the one just terminated. The more convincing the British can be in showing the Ethiopian Government that they can deny the extension of aid to the Emperor

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By J. Schauble Date

FEB 7 1972

by

by other powers, the better the terms they can presumably obtain from the Emperor.

While the political and economic interests of the United States in Ethiopia are not now of major importance, this Government does wish to maintain a position of equality of opportunity in Ethiopia so that any future development of American interests would not be prevented by exclusive or preferential rights obtained by third parties. This Government has a natural interest in the welfare of Ethiopia, one of the two independent countries of Africa, and is sympathetic to the desire of the Emperor to re-establish order and restore the economy of the country which was so badly disrupted during four years of Italian occupation.

There does not appear to be a valid reason for the United States to acquiesce in British desires in this case.

Since it is possible that this question may be raised with you by Mr. Churchill at Quebec, it is thought desirable that you should be informed on the matter.

Unless you perceive some objection thereto, or unless more substantial reasons are advanced by the British against the release of the rifles than have so far been advanced, the Department proposes to advise the War Department that the rifles may be sent forward to Ethiopia at its convenience.

CH

March 9, 1945.

My dear Emperor Haile Selassie:

It gives me unusual pleasure to return to Your Majesty a silver service, a Coptic Cross and a number of ceremonial garments belonging to the Imperial Household and to Your Majesty's followers. These articles were recovered from their hiding places by the American armed forces in Italy and are being transmitted to Your Majesty through the American Minister to Ethiopia under the custody of the officers responsible for their recovery.

With my warm regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Franklin D. Roosevelt

His Imperial Majesty
Haile Selassie I
Emperor of Ethiopia.

3 March 1945

His Imperial Majesty
Haile Selassie I
Emperor of Ethiopia

~~Your Majesty:~~ *My dear Emperor Haile Selassie*

It gives me unusual pleasure to return to Your Majesty a silver service, a Coptic Cross and a number of ceremonial garments belonging to the Imperial Household and to Your Majesty's followers. These articles were recovered from their hiding places by the American armed forces in Italy and are being transmitted to Your Majesty through the American Minister to Ethiopia under the custody of the officers responsible for their recovery.

or - same,
3

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

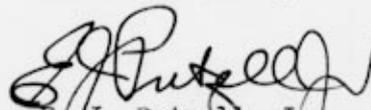
3 March 1945

Miss Grace Tully
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Tully:

In accordance with your request we attach herewith a draft of the note from the President to Haile Selassie, transmitting certain Imperial ceremonial effects which our personnel recovered in Italy. This draft, I believe, was prepared after consultation with the State Department.

Sincerely yours,



E. J. Putzell, Jr.
Lieut. (jg), USNR
Assistant Executive
Officer

Attachment

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

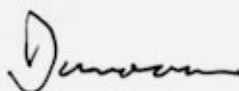
25 February 1945

Handwritten:
Hill 7/2
2-05

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

In the course of a search for the official and personal papers of Marshal Graziani (which were found in their hiding place in the Catacombs), our people recovered certain boxes of personal property. This property evidently represented booty taken by the Marshal in the Abyssinian campaign. Of chief interest are the silver service, Coptic cross and ceremonial garments of Haile Selassie and certain of his chieftains.

If it meets with your wishes we shall deliver these to him for you. In this event, I wonder if you would care to prepare a note of transmittal.



William J. Donovan
Director

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E. O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

CIA HR 11/27/74
By *WBS* Date DEC 4 1974

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Ethiopia folder 1-45
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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

15 March 1945

file 7

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

I attach a detailed list of the silverware and ceremonial garments which are to be returned to His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie.

I have also learned that the articles were recovered from the church of Sant'Agnese in Rome where they had been hidden without the consent of the Vatican authorities. The local parish priest had been compelled by Marshal Graziani to secrete them. However, he cooperated very willingly with us once we had discovered where the materials were hidden.

Your wishes in the matter are being carried out and the materials will be returned in the near future.

Donovan
William J. Donovan
Director

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TABLE SILVER

A.

1. 60 meat knives, gold plated silver and silver - "Paris".
2. 18 fruit knives, gold plated silver and silver - "Paris".
3. 2 tea spoons, gold plated silver - crown and symbol crest.
4. 3 coffee spoons, gold plated silver - crown and symbol crest.
5. 20 large forks, gold plated silver - crown and symbol crest.
6. 13 pointed meat knives, gold plated silver and silver - crown and symbol crest.
7. 9 rounded tip meat knives, gold plated silver and silver - crown and symbol crest.
8. 20 large soup spoons, gold plated silver - crown and symbol crest.
9. 15 salad (or cake) forks, gold plated silver - crown and symbol crest.
10. 12 dessert spoons (medium size), gold plated silver - crown and symbol crest.
11. 18 fruit knives, round tip, all gold plated silver - crown and symbol crest.

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12. 2 small syrup ladles, all gold plated silver - crown and symbol crest.

13. 1 large punch ladle, all gold plated silver - crown and symbol crest.

14. 2 small tea strainers, all gold plated silver - crown and symbol crest.

15. 1 very large serving fork, all gold plated silver - crown and symbol crest.

16. 2 large serving spoons, all gold plated silver - crown and symbol crest.

17. 1 salad spoon, half gold plated silver, half bone - crown and symbol crest.

18. 1 salad fork, half gold plated silver, half bone - crown and symbol crest.

19. 1 large steak fork, all gold plated silver - crown and symbol crest.

20. 1 large steak knife, gold plated silver and silver - crown and symbol crest.

21. 1 carved cheese knife (pronged), all gold plated silver - crown and symbol crest.

22. 1 pair gold filigree bread tongs - crown and symbol crest.

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23. 1 large "crumber", all gold designed - crown and symbol crest.

24. 1 "trowel" shaped cake server, gold plated silver - crown and symbol crest.

25. 1 "spatula" shaped cake server, gold plated silver - crown and symbol crest.

26. 1 "shovel" shaped cake server, gold plated silver - crown and symbol crest.

27. 1 cake knife) set - server - gold plated silver
1 cake fork) and silver - NO crest.

28. 1 gravy ladle with twisted handle and intricate design - crown crest at base.

29. 1 large gravy spoon, gold, with figurine and shield - Swiss Cross at base.

30. 2 round tip knives, all silver, with gold crown and symbol crest.

31. 1 large pointed knife, all silver, - crown and symbol crest.

32. 2 large soup spoons, all silver - gold crown and symbol crest at back.

33. 2 large meat forks, all silver - gold crown and symbol crest at back.

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34. 1 large fork (prongs bent in), all silver - crown and symbol crest.

35. 1 small fork (prongs bent in), all silver - crown and symbol crest.

SILVER OBJECTS

B.

1. 1 small silver vase, with handles.
2. 1 small silver vase, with leaf clusters.
3. 1 larger silver vase, with handles.
4. 1 large rough hewn silver vase with three handles.
5. 1 large ornate vase .
6. 1 silver oriental oil lamp with chain.
7. 1 small glass and silver candy dish.
8. 1 plain large silver tray.
9. 1 ornate silver tray.
10. 1 round silver platter.
11. 1 silver card tray with four legs.
12. 2 silver electric candelabra.
13. 1 silver bowl with grape clusters.
14. 2 oblong silver bowls - identical.

15. 1 silver spittoon.
16. 1 rough hewn silver bowl.
17. 1 silver sea shell with onyx base.
18. 1 silver (ornate) jewelry box.
19. 2 small silver filigree ash trays with ivory rims.
20. 12 silver punch cup holders.
21. 1 silver and wicker jug with handle.
22. 1 gold filigree vase (small), with stones.
23. 1 small beaten silver vase.
24. 1 silver cigarette box (inscribed).
25. 1 silver ash tray with figurine.
26. 1 silver incense burner with crest.
27. 1 silver (round) candy box with figurine.
28. 1 silver powder box.
29. 2 silver candy dishes with glass center.
30. 1 silver cover for above.
31. 1 silver and wooden ash tray.
32. 1 silver and gold filigree plate (small).
33. 1 gold metal box (initials MF).
34. 2 small silver ash trays.
35. 1 round silver box with cover.

36. 1 oblong silver top.
37. 1 coffee set - 4 pieces - silver.
38. 1 tea set - 3 pieces - silver.

CLOTHING AND SWORDS

C.

1. 1 coat, heavily ornamented with gold embroidery on purple velvet, green silk lining; gold tassel fringe.
2. 1 coat, cape style, black fur (unborn kid), blue fringe.
3. 1 coat, cape style, blue velvet, heavily embroidered in gold; mauve and pink silk lining.
4. 1 coat, with sleeves, full length, purple velvet, heavily embroidered on sleeves, pockets and in back, form fitting; gold buttons with Judea crest, black European tailoring lining.
5. 1 pair red velvet trousers, gold embroidered cuffs and down sides, string tie at waist, purple lining.
6. 1 pair purple velvet trousers, gold embroidered cuffs, green lining.
7. 1 pair fuschia velvet trousers, gold embroidered cuffs, green lining.

8. 1 pair green velvet trousers, plain, fuschia lining.
9. 1 horse blanket, green, yellow and red with gold embroidery and purple lining.
10. 1 very large cover, yellow damask print, 2 red velvet crests, gold embroidery, green, red, gold stripe, gold fringe, lavender lining, gold cross in center (seams ripped).
11. 1 black satin cape with hood attached, gold trim, tassels, part of lining maroon.
12. 1 shawl, red with blue lining and embroidered scallops, embroidery throughout.
13.
 - a. 1 richly embroidered blue velvet pillow, red reverse, crest, inscription, gold embroidery.
 - b. 1 cuff, red velvet with gold embroidery, green lining, red and white stones.
 - c. 1 heavy belt with gold metal trim and silver trinkets.
 - d. 1 red velvet fob with gold and silver heavy embroidery, red and white stones.
 - e. 1 red velvet fob with gold and silver heavy embroidery, green lining; with 2 smaller fobs to match.
 - f. 1 red velvet strip with gold embroidery, red lining.

g. 1 red velvet strip with gold and silver embroidery, red lining.

h. 1 red velvet strip with gold and silver embroidery, red lining.

i. 2 red strips (small) with red lining and gold embroidery.

j. 1 white cloth belt with colored silk embroidery.

14. 5 pieces of horse trimmings.

15. 1 red velvet bag (not photographed).

16. 1 fuschia velvet bag, badly worn (not photographed).

17. 2 wrapped up canvasses (paintings) - not photographed.

18. Embossed Ethiopian sword with inscriptions, and red leather, gold metal trim, scabbard.

19. Black velvet scabbard with silver trim (sword does not slip out of scabbard).

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

12 March 1945

Miss Grace Tully
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Grace:

I think the attached memorandum
will be of interest to the President. Will
you please see that it reaches his desk.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bill

William J. Donovan
Director

Attachment

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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SECRET

12 March 1945

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