

● PSF

Italy

1939-40

CONTINUED

*file
personal*

PSF: Italy

THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

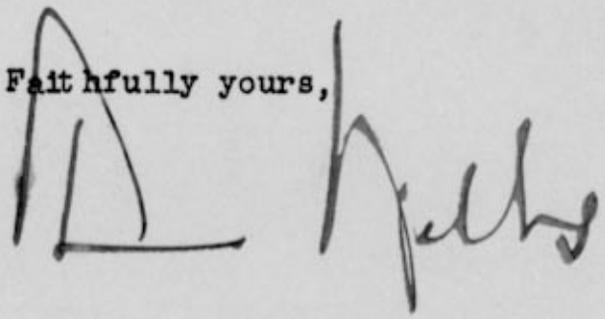
April 18, 1939

My dear Mr. President:

I received this morning two personal letters from Joe Kennedy and Arthur Lane, our Minister in Belgrade, dated April 5 and March 31. I am sending copies of these letters to you because I believe the information contained in them will be of interest to you. I imagine that Joe Kennedy has already written you the substance of what he has sent me in his letter, but I wanted nevertheless, to be quite sure that the facts mentioned in his letter were brought to your attention.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,



The President,
The White House.

COPY

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

London, April 5, 1939

Personal and
Confidential

Dear Sumner,

I had a couple of talks with the Holy Father--one at rather great length, both as to conditions in the United States and conditions in Europe. I would say he is far from having any political prejudices, except a subconscious prejudice that has arisen from his belief that the tendency of Nazism and Fascism is pro-pagan and, as pro-pagan, they strike at the roots of religion. Besides having great prestige in countries like Great Britain and the United States, his influence in Italy is probably stronger than that of any Pope for the last 100 years.

Incidentally, it may interest you to know that, when I notified Halifax I had been designated as Delegate representing the President, although they were going to make the present Minister at the Vatican Ambassador Extraordinary for the Coronation, they decided to follow the example set by the President and send Norfolk as Special Delegate, and when I left they were getting the King to approve of the idea. I told this to His Holiness and it pleased him no end to think that the action of the President was also responsible for the extra action by Great Britain. The Italians had decided not to send a representative until they heard that Norfolk and I were going and then they notified the Vatican that Ciano would go. So, it is another instance, even in church circles, of how far the influence of the President can be made to work.

I don't believe that it is very practical to imagine that the Pope could stop Mussolini from fighting a war which he had persuaded the people was for the glory of Italy, but I am definitely of the opinion that the influence of the Pope could be utilized for

The Honorable
Sumner Welles,
Under Secretary of State,
Washington.

the cause of peace in ways under the surface rather than in a big gesture.

As I cabled you, I had a very interesting talk with Mussolini's daughter and I would like very much to follow it up, as well as my acquaintance with Ciano, not because I think I could get more information that Bill Phillips, but because I would try to get, sooner or later, in the confidence of some of the top-side fellows. I also intend to keep my contacts close to the Vatican. All with the view of watching the moves very carefully and with the hope that there might possibly be a spot for the President to do the big job - peace for the world. I am keeping in close contact with Rossini, the Minister of Agriculture and as I develop this, I will keep you informed.

Sincerely yours,

JOE

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Belgrade, March 31, 1939

~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

My dear Mr. Welles:

In recent telegrams I have reported the local reaction towards an apparent change in Italian policy as was evidenced by Mussolini's speech of March 26th, in which he referred to joint Italian and Slav interests in the Adriatic.

When I saw Prince Paul on March 27th, he emphasized the significance of Mussolini's remarks and said that, in his opinion, he considers them most important not only for Yugoslavia but for all of Europe as well. On the following day the Apostolic Nuncio, Monsignor Ettore Felici, who I consider to be one of the best informed of all of my colleagues because of his previous eight years of service here as Secretary of the Nunciature, his perfect command of the Serbian language, and his contacts with popular opinion in the country through the Roman Catholic Clergy, said to me that Mussolini's reference to the Adriatic is of great importance in showing that Mussolini gives warning to Hitler to keep out of that Italian sphere of influence. The Presidents of the Skupstina and the Senate, Dr. Milan Simonović and Dr. Anton Korošec, respectively, expressed similar opinions in subsequent conversations with me.

The Italian Minister, Mr. Mario Indelli, in discussing the Croatian question with me on March 23d said that it would be a very dangerous thing, both for Yugoslavia and for Italy, were Yugoslavia to be divided into two provinces, one Croatian and one Serbian. He added significantly that he was not speaking as representative of the axis but as representative of Italy.

Last evening the First Secretary of the Italian Legation Signor Gastone Guidotti, said to me that Italy would forcibly resist any German attempt to control Croatia and thus obtain access to the Adriatic Coast.

Very sincerely yours,

ARTHUR HILLIS LANE

The Honorable
Sumner Welles,
Department of State,
Washington.

In the course of the conversation, he referred to Ambassador Phillips as being a career ambassador in Rome and inquired whether we had ever sent a career ambassador to London. I replied in the negative and said that the policy had invariably been to send to London a person closely conversant with the President's thoughts. Mr. Guidotti said that there is only one Italian political ambassador, Mr. Grandi in London, and that it would be useless to have ambassadors familiar with their President's--the Duce's--thoughts, for nobody knew them. He likewise referred to the growing discontent in Italy against the present regime and said with bitterness that the people were no longer afraid to talk against Mussolini as it would be impossible to find space in Italian jails for the whole nation.

The Italian Consul General at Ljubljana, Signor Agostino Guerrini Maraldi, who is married to an American, was likewise outspoken with me in a conversation on March 19th in speaking of the Rome-Berlin axis. He said, commenting upon Hitler's annexation of Czechoslovakia, that at last Hitler had taken the mask off his face and shown that what he really desired was not self-determination of peoples but imperialism. He indicated that any German move toward Croatia would be of great danger to Italy and to the peace of Europe as well.

Because of the danger involved to the persons who have talked so freely, I have not wished to report the details of my conversations in telegrams. On the other hand, I feel it is important for you to know that my reports have been based on something more concrete than hearsay or gossip. In my opinion these remarks are significant in showing the division of the axis and an increasing possibility of further schism should German penetration in Yugoslavia continue. Yugoslavia indeed appears to me to be the point where the axis interests definitely clash, because of the Adriatic and because of Yugoslavia being the entrance to the Balkans.

Believe me, with kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

ARTHUR BLISS LANE

PSF: Italy

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Personal and
~~Secret~~

Paris, May 4, 1939.

Dear Mr. President:

Otto of Hapsburg came to see me again this morning. He had lots of information which appeared to be reliable.

The most lurid bit which I pass to you for your private ear only, since he pledged me to secrecy, is the following:

On the morning when Mussolini decided to make war on Albania, he called on the King to inform him that in spite of his promises to the Albanian Government and in spite of his assurances to England, he intended to take over Albania by force.

The King stated to Mussolini that he would not be a party to such an action which would bring dishonor to his name. He would resign at once in favor of the

Prince

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

Prince of Piedmont. Mussolini then stated that in case the King should resign, the Fascist Grand Council would not permit the Prince of Piedmont to accede to the Throne, but would choose the Duke of Aosta.

Marshal Badoglio was then drawn into the conversation. He supported the King and stated that if Mussolini should attempt to have the Duke of Aosta take the Throne in place of the Prince of Piedmont, the Army would support the Prince of Piedmont. The conversation was excessively stormy and it was finally decided to call in the Prince of Piedmont.

The Prince persuaded his father not to abdicate.

Otto expressed the opinion that Badoglio, Balbo, the Army officers and the Royal House would soon see to it that Mussolini should meet an early death. The King would abdicate, the Prince of Piedmont would succeed him, and would issue a new constitution which would be somewhat similar to the present Serbian constitution. The chief men in the new regime would be Grandi and Balbo.

From the details given by Otto, I am inclined to believe that there was a very stormy scene between the

King

- 3 -

King and Mussolini, but I am naturally inclined to doubt that Mussolini will shortly be translated into another sphere.

Good luck.

Yours affectionately,



William C. Bullitt.

PSE
July
1

Memo to Watson
From Sumner Welles
July 19, 1939

Two conf despatches from Biddle

No-1080, dated June 7, 1939 concerning
official Polish reports on Italo-German
relations;

No-1126, dated June 28, 1939 concerning
the propaganda campaigns conducted by the
German, Japanese, and Italian Embassies
in Warsaw.

See-Poland folder-Drawer 1-1939

File
Personal

DSF

Shaly

Rome, August 25, 1939.

Dear Mr. President,

Having just returned on the night train from delivering your message to the King at Sant'Anna di Valdieri, I am sending you a line to give you a brief description of the event.

As soon as the message was deciphered on Wednesday evening, I went at once to see Ciano and told him of my instructions and asked him to arrange an audience for me. I thought it wise, in the circumstances, to read him the message in order that he could not accuse us of deliberately going over the head of the Duce. At the same time I pointed out that the message was solely for the sovereign and that I could not leave a copy of it with him. He replied that it would perhaps take two or three days to arrange for me to be received inasmuch as the King was not in Rome and was in fact

The President,

at

The White House,

Washington, D.C.

at his fishing camp in the wilds of northern Italy. I said that in that case I would take the night train to Turin and wait until I received a summons from the King's household. Ciano said that my request was a most unusual one and that this was the first time that a Chief of Mission had asked for an audience with the sovereign "on a political matter". However, he excused himself for a moment in order to speak with Mussolini over the phone, and in four or five minutes returned smilingly saying that the audience would be arranged at once. I expressed my appreciation, and after my return to the Embassy he called me on the phone to say that he had succeeded in getting in touch with the King and that I would be received at two o'clock on the following afternoon.

Accordingly, accompanied by my Third Secretary, I left on the eleven p.m. train for Turin and arrived the following morning shortly before ten o'clock. The fishing camp proved to be one and three-quarters hours motor drive from Turin. It lies in a wild and rugged valley and on the edge of what is said to be a famous trout stream. The camp consists of a group of small frame houses of the simplest type. In spite of a
drizzle,

drizzle, I found the King waiting for me in front of a small square frame house, which he said was his only sitting-room. We went inside and I informed him that I had an oral message to him from you, which I believed had been sent by you direct from your ship off the coast of New England while you were on your way to Washington. I then read the message and left with him the Aide Memoire. The King speaks and understands English perfectly, and he grasped readily every point. At the conclusion he asked me to express his cordial thanks to you and to say that he would at once transmit the message to his Government. More than that, he said, he could not say because he was limited by his constitutional authority. I emphasized that your appeal was intended to be of help to the Italian Government at this moment, that we believed his Government had been doing their best to prevent a cataclysm, but that the Salzburg conversations between Ciano, Hitler, and Von Ribbentrop had not been successful in this respect. I said I hoped that the President's message would provide his Government with the means of further action with Hitler. I emphasized the word "help", and the King repeated it after me so
that

that I know he got it. He remarked that no one in Italy desired war, and he repeated "no one", and I interpreted this as including Mussolini and members of the Government.

While it was pathetic to find the King at this critical moment intent on trout fishing and apparently almost completely isolated, his absence from Rome may be a sign that the Italian Government has decided not to embark on war at the present time. That, I admit, is an optimistic way of looking at things as they are today, when we are in a state of partial mobilization.

My interview lasted about half an hour and I came away with the impression that the King was not as worried as most everyone else by passing events. Is this a good sign, or is it merely a sign of old age creeping on and the fact that he is being kept completely out of the picture? There is a good deal of guessing to be done in this connection.

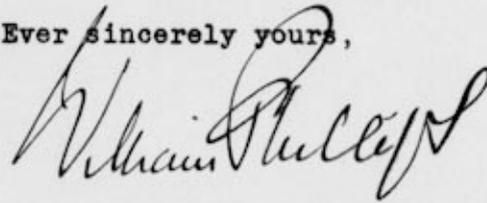
He was certainly most cordial and friendly, and said that I was the only American Ambassador except Henry White to have visited his camp, and he apologized many times for the weather, which was exceedingly bad,

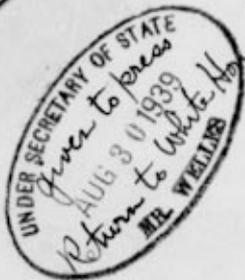
and

and for bringing me on such a long journey.

It seems almost absurd to bother you with a letter these days, for events are moving so rapidly that this letter will certainly have no value when it is received in the course of ten days or two weeks. However, perhaps it may be of some slight interest to you nevertheless. How helpless one seems these days in the face of such appalling possibilities!

Ever sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William Phillips". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text "Ever sincerely yours,".



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 30, 1939

*file
personal*

Respectfully referred to the State
Department for translation.

Attention: Mr. Summerlin.

EDWIN M. WATSON
Secretary to the President



PSE

Italy

TRANSLATION

THE WHITE HOUSE

TELEGRAM

WASHINGTON

August 30, 1939

His Excellency

The President of the United States of America.

I am grateful to you for your interest. I have immediately transmitted your message to my Government. As is known to all, there has been done and there is being done by us whatever is possible to bring about a peace with justice.

VITTORIO EMANUELE

TELEGRAM

The White House

Washington

20WU.RA.

50-Givt.

2:37 p.m.

SROSSOREREGGIA, August 30, 1939

S. E. PRESIDENTE DEGLI STATI UNITI D AMERICA,

Vi sono grato per il vostro interessamento ho subito trasmesso
il vostro messaggio al mio governo come E A tutti noto da noi
si E fatto E si sta facendo quanto E possibile per perseguire
una pace con giustizia.

Vittorio Emanuele.

PSF 2

Italy
1file personal
COPYVatican City
Rome, Italy
Sept. 15th, 1939

Dear Friend:

My return to Italy at this time was really God's wish.

I found here a state of great anxiety and phenomenal alarm, which increased day by day, and which has now been transformed into painful reality and true panic. A period of strictest economy and hunger draws near all of us with great strides.

The present situation is this:

1st. All funds circulating in the nation must return to the Government treasury every fifteen days with taxes. Imagine, if you can, the individuals' economic disorder.

2nd. The problem of subsistence has become one of great gravity and enormous worry. There is no gasoline and the movement of automobiles is prohibited, as is also the majority of transport vehicles; there is no more coffee and its sale is prohibited; there is also a lack of sugar. In the regions where there is sugar, it is sold only in grams; there is also a lack of salt (which is produced here in sufficient quantity); the use of meat has been restricted, and the small amount of fish there is has risen enormously in price; similarly, the prices of all foodstuffs have risen greatly, and it is considered a crime (subject to great fines) to hoard food and to lay up supplies for the future. In brief, everything and especially food, will be pooled, so that no individual will be able to obtain more than the portion assigned him. If what an individual wants is more on sale (often the case) the individual will have to content himself with nothing and suffer hunger.

In view of this situation, it is evident that we must endure very sad times.

When I left Toronto, you told me that you would send me a crate of apples from your property. I shall now tell you with all frankness, that I would eat them almost with devotion, because they were grown on the property of my best loved friend; however, instead of the apples, in view of the circumstances, I would be much more grateful if the crate contained foodstuffs to avoid the necessity of my family having to suffer days of hunger. You must not think of

COPY

-2-

sending me expensive foods, or palatable delicacies, I do not want you to spend much.

I shall clearly explain what I would like.

In Canada and certainly in the United States, there are foods which are inexpensive (dried, cured meat, canned meat, or pickled; fish, (likewise dried, cured, canned or pickled), etc. etc. As regards fish, I believe there is a great deal of it being a product of the great lakes.

I repeat that I do not wish expensive foods (I do not want you to spend much). If they are also simple foods, it will be all the same to me.

Please pardon such frankness. It is really necessity which has obliged me to ask this favor.

If you can send me what I want, you should send it to me at Vatican City.

With expressions of deepest gratitude, I would ask you to give my regards to your grandson James.

I am

Your affectionate servant and friend,

Enrico Cardinale Gasparri.

P.S.

Do not send either coffee or sugar, because those things can be obtained in the Vatican, at least for the moment.

TELEGRAM

175 F Italy

The White House
Washington

18WUAB 26 Cable gvt

Pisa Nov. 12, 1939

THE PRESIDENT:

RINGRAZIO VIVAMENTE VOSTRA ECCELLENZA PER IL MESSAGGIO
CHE HA VOLUTO DIRIGERMI E PER I GENTILI AUGURII CHE HO
MOLTO GRADITO.

VITTORIO EMANUELE.

2:00 p.m.

NOV 13 1939



[Translation]

Italy
1

TELEGRAM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

18WUAB 26 Cable Government

Pisa, November 12, 1939.

The President:

I thank Your Excellency cordially for the message which you have been good enough to address to me and for the kind wishes which I have greatly appreciated.

VITTORIO EMANUELE.

2:00 p.m.

*For original cable - See: Famous People File
Drawer 3-1939*

175F Italy
Italy

December 16, 1939.

To the President at Hyde Park

From Steve Early

Summary of News reports

Re-Battleship Admiral Graf Spee

" Count Ciano's address before the Chamber of Fascist Corporations
in Rome on Dec 16th etc etc

See: Navy folder-Drawer 1-1939

PSF Italy

FOR RELEASE: SUNDAY MORNING NEWSPAPERS
December 24, 1939.

The President made public today a Christmas letter sent to the Pope, as head of the Catholic Church, to Dr. George A. Buttrick, the present President of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, as a Protestant leader, and to Rabbi Cyrus Adler, President of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, as a recognized leader of the Jewish faith.

In his letter to the Pope the President indicated his intention to send a representative of the President to Rome in order that parallel endeavors for peace and the alleviation of suffering may be assisted. He announced that he had appointed Mr. Myron W. Taylor as his representative, to take up questions arising out of the abnormal world situation. It is understood that Mr. Taylor will not sail for some weeks.

The President's letter to the Pope was transmitted through Archbishop Spellman of New York, who, with Mr. A. A. Berle, Jr., Assistant Secretary of State,

handed

handed it to Archbishop Cioognani, Apostolic Delegate in Washington for delivery to the Pope. Archbishop Spellman lunched with President Roosevelt yesterday and returned to New York.

The President likewise requested Dr. Buttrick, as President of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ and Dr. Adler to visit him from time to time to discuss with him problems arising out of the world situation.

TELEGRAM

*file
personal*

The White House

Washington

December 24, 1939

For the President:

Myron Taylor telephoned. He said:

"I have been pursued by the newspapers yesterday afternoon and evening and today for some kind of a statement. I wanted to bring that up to the attention of the President: I have given them nothing so far. If he thinks I should say something I jotted this down for his correction.

"I am greatly honored in the appointment by President Roosevelt as his personal representative to the Vatican. The prospects of conference with the Holy Father, Pius XII, in the cause of world peace and good will is most inspiring. No cause could find any one of us more willing to serve to the utmost of his ability. I am doubly pleased that the opportunity comes through the field of religion, that great cornerstone, on which civilization and man's dearest hope for the future has and must rest if human destiny is to achieve its ultimate triumph over the forces of evil."

"This next part I do not know whether it is advisable to use or not:

"I am emboldened to refer to his remarks made to me by His Holiness in a personal conversation at my home in New York about two years ago in effect that, in the days soon to come all the forces of religion would need to align themselves together against a revival of paganism if our civilization were to be saved. How true a prophesy that was, past world events will bring home to every right-thinking man. It will lead each to the question, how can I serve?

"Our generation is too well rounded in the fundamental principles of justice, charity, and brotherly love to even consider any evasion of such a duty and, when the call comes, all will serve. My call has come. I seek to serve usefully. That we may succeed in our efforts, is my Christmas prayer."

"This is for him (The President) to decide upon and if he thinks I am wrong in referring to my conversation with Cardinal Pacelli when he was here, we can leave that out, or he may think it best to say nothing at all to the Press."

(Mr. Taylor awaits word at Rhinelander 4-3545, New York)

k/d/1201pm

~~FOR RELEASE: SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 24, 1939.~~
December 24, 1939.

(2)
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in his letter to them,

L

Published in

Foreign Relations of the United States

1939 Vol. II General, The British
Commonwealth, and Europe

pages 871-872

"Your Holiness:

"Because, at this Christmas time, the world is in sorrow, it is especially fitting that I send you a message of greeting and of faith.

"The world has created for itself a civilization capable of giving to mankind security and peace firmly set in the foundations of religious teachings. Yet, though it has conquered the earth, the sea, and even the air, civilization today passes through war and travail.

I take heart in remembering that in a similar time, Isaiah first prophesied the birth of Christ. Then, several centuries before His coming, the condition of the world was not unlike that which we see today. Then, as now, a conflagration had been set; and nations walked dangerously in the light of the fires they had themselves kindled. But in that very moment a spiritual rebirth was foreseen, - a new day which was to loose the captives and to consume the conquerors in the fire of their own kindling; and those who had taken the sword were to perish by the sword. There was promised a new age wherein through renewed faith the upward progress of the human race would
become

become more secure.

Again, during the several centuries which we refer to as the Dark Ages, the flame and sword of barbarians swept over Western civilization; and, again, through a rekindling of the inherent spiritual spark in mankind, another rebirth brought back order and culture and religion.

I believe that the travail of today is a new form of these old conflicts. Because the tempo of all worldly things has been so greatly accelerated in these modern days we can hope that the period of darkness and destruction will be vastly shorter than in the olden times.

In their hearts men decline to accept, for long, the law of destruction forced upon them by wielders of brute force. Always they seek, sometimes in silence, to find again the faith without which the welfare of nations and the peace of the world cannot be rebuilt.

I have the rare privilege of reading the letters and confidences of thousands of humble people, living in scores of different nations. Their names are not known to history, but their daily work and courage carry on the life of the world. I know that these, and uncounted numbers like them in every country, are looking for a guiding light. We remember that the Christmas Star was first seen by shepherds in the hills, long before the leaders knew of the Great Light which had entered the world.

I believe that while statesmen are considering a new order of things, the new order may well be at hand. I believe that it is even now being built, silently but inevitably, in the hearts of masses whose voices are not heard, but whose common faith will write the final history of our time. They know that unless there is belief in some guiding principle and some trust in a divine plan, nations are without light, and peoples perish. They know that the civilization handed down to us by our fathers was built by men and women who knew in their hearts that all were brothers because they were children of God. They believe that by His will enmities can be healed; that in His mercy the weak can find deliverance, and the strong can find grace in helping the weak.

In the grief and terror of the hour, these quiet voices, if they can be heard, may yet tell of the rebuilding of the world.

It is well that the world should think of this at Christmas.

Because the people of this nation have come to a realization that time and distance no longer exist in the older sense, they understand that that which harms one segment of humanity harms all the rest. They know that only by friendly association between the seekers of light
and

and the seekers of peace everywhere can the forces of evil be overcome.

In these present moments, no spiritual leader, no civil leader can move forward on a specific plan to terminate destruction and build anew. Yet the time for that will surely come.

It is, therefore, my thought that though no given action or given time may now be prophesied, it is well that we encourage a closer association between those in every part of the world - those in religion and those in government - who have a common purpose.

I am, therefore, suggesting to Your Holiness that it would give me great satisfaction to send to you my personal representative in order that our parallel endeavors for peace and the alleviation of suffering may be assisted.

When the time shall come for the reestablishment of world peace on a surer foundation, it is of the utmost importance to humanity and to religion that common ideals shall have united expression.

Furthermore, when that happy day shall dawn, great problems of practical import will face us all. Millions of people of all races, all nationalities and all religions may seek new lives by migration to other lands or by

reestablishment

reestablishment of old homes. Here, too, common ideals call for parallel action.

I trust, therefore, that all of the churches of the world which believe in a common God will throw the great weight of their influence into this great cause.

To you, whom I have the privilege of calling a good friend and an old friend, I send my respectful greetings at this Christmas Season.

"Cordially yours,

" (Signed)- Franklin D. Roosevelt "

His Holiness

Pius XII,

Rome, Italy."

A true copy of
the signed original
GARY

December 23, 1939

My dear Dr. Buttrick:

Because, at this Christmas time, the world is in sorrow, it is especially fitting that I send you a message of greeting and of faith. Realizing the spiritual kinship of all who believe in a common God, I have sent a like greeting to the Pope as head of the Catholic Church, and to Rabbi Cyrus Adler as an outstanding leader of the Jewish faith.

The world has created for itself a civilization capable of giving to mankind security and peace firmly set in the foundations of religious teachings. Yet, though it has conquered the earth, the sea, and even the air, civilization today passes through war and travail.

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I believe that while statesmen are considering a new order of things, the new order may well be at hand. I believe that it is even now being built, silently but inevitably, in the hearts of masses whose voices are not heard, but whose common faith will write the final history of our time. They know that unless there is belief in some guiding principle and some trust in a divine plan, nations are without light, and peoples perish. They know that the civilization handed down to us by our fathers was built by men and women who knew in their hearts that all were brothers because they were children of God. They believe that by His will enmities can be healed; that in His mercy the weak can find deliverance, and the strong can find grace in helping the weak.

In the grief and terror of the hour, these quiet voices, if they can be heard, may yet tell of the rebuilding of the world.

It is well that the world should think of this at Christmas.

Because

Because the people of this nation have come to a realization that time and distance no longer exist in the older sense, they understand that that which harms one segment of humanity harms all the rest. They know that only by friendly association between the seekers of light and the seekers of peace everywhere can the forces of evil be overcome.

In these present moments, no spiritual leader, no civil leader can move forward on a specific plan to terminate destruction and build anew. Yet the time for that will surely come.

It is, therefore, my thought that though no given action or given time may now be prophesied, it is well that we encourage a closer association between those in every part of the world - those in religion and those in government - who have a common purpose.

I therefore suggest that it would give me great satisfaction if you would, from time to time, come to Washington to discuss the problems which all of us have on our minds, in order that our parallel endeavors for peace and the alleviation of suffering may be assisted.

When the time shall come for the reestablishment of world peace on a surer foundation, it is of the utmost importance to humanity and to religion that common ideals shall have united expression.

Furthermore,

Furthermore, when that happy day shall dawn, great problems of practical import will face us all. Millions of people of all races, all nationalities and all religions may seek new lives by migration to other lands or by reestablishment of old homes. Here, too, common ideals call for parallel action.

I trust, therefore, that all of the churches of the world which believe in a common God will throw the great weight of their influence into this great cause.

To you, whom I have the privilege of calling a good friend, I send my sincere greetings at this Christmas Season.

Cordially yours,

(Signed) Franklin D. Roosevelt

Dr. George A. Buttrick,
President, Federal Council of the
Churches of Christ in America,
297 Fourth Avenue,
New York, New York.

A true copy of
the signed orig-
inal *FR*

December 23, 1939

My dear Rabbi Adler:

Because, at this Christmas time, the world is in sorrow, it is especially fitting that I send you a message of greeting and of faith. Realizing the spiritual kinship of all who believe in a common God, I have sent a like greeting to the President of the Federal Council of Churches in Christ and to the Pope, as head of the Catholic Church. You will, perhaps, permit me to send this message through you, as President of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, to all members of that faith, among whose rabbis I have many friends.

The world has created for itself a civilization capable of giving to mankind security and peace firmly set in the foundations of religious teachings. Yet, though it has conquered the earth, the sea, and even the air, civilization today passes through war and travail.

I take heart in remembering that in a similar time, Isaiah first prophesied the birth of Christ. Then, several centuries before His coming, the condition of

the

the world was not unlike that which we see today. Then, as now, a conflagration had been set; and nations walked dangerously in the light of the fires they had themselves kindled. But in that very moment a spiritual rebirth was foreseen, - a new day which was to loose the captives and to consume the conquerors in the fire of their own kindling; and those who had taken the sword were to perish by the sword. There was promised a new age where in through renewed faith the upward progress of the human race would become more secure.

Again, during the several centuries which we refer to as the Dark Ages, the flame and sword of barbarians swept over Western civilization; and, again, through a rekindling of the inherent spiritual spark in mankind, another rebirth brought back order and culture and religion.

I believe that the travail of today is a new form of these old conflicts. Because the tempo of all worldly things has been so greatly accelerated in these modern days we can hope that the period of darkness and destruction will be vastly shorter than in the olden times.

In their hearts men decline to accept, for long, the law of destruction forced upon them by wielders of brute force. Always they seek, sometimes in silence, to find again the faith without which the welfare of nations and the peace of the world cannot be rebuilt.

I have the rare privilege of reading the letters and confidences of thousands of humble people, living in scores of different nations. Their names are not known to history, but their daily work and courage carry on the life of the world. I know that these, and uncounted numbers like them in every country, are looking for a guiding light. We remember that the Christmas Star was first seen by shepherds in the hills, long before the leaders knew of the Great Light which had entered the world.

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In the grief and terror of the hour, these quiet
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voices, if they can be heard, may yet tell of the rebuilding of the world.

It is well that the world should think of this at Christmas.

Because the people of this nation have come to a realization that time and distance no longer exist in the older sense, they understand that that which harms one segment of humanity harms all the rest. They know that only by friendly association between the seekers of light and the seekers of peace everywhere can the forces of evil be overcome.

In these present moments, no spiritual leader, no civil leader can move forward on a specific plan to terminate destruction and build anew. Yet the time for that will surely come.

It is, therefore, my thought that though no given action or given time may now be prophesied, it is well that we encourage a closer association between those in every part of the world - those in religion and those in government - who have a common purpose.

I, therefore, suggest that it would give me great satisfaction if you would from time to time come to Washington to discuss the problem which all of us have on our minds, in order that our parallel endeavors for peace and the alleviation of suffering may be assisted.

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When the time shall come for the reestablishment of world peace on a surer foundation, it is of the utmost importance to humanity and to religion that common ideals shall have united expression.

Furthermore, when that happy day shall dawn, great problems of practical import will face us all. Millions of people of all races, all nationalities and all religions may seek new lives by migration to other lands or by reestablishment of old homes. Here, too, common ideals call for parallel action.

I trust, therefore, that all of the churches of the world which believe in a common God will throw the great weight of their influence into this great cause.

To you, whom I have the privilege of calling a good friend and an old friend, I send my sincere greetings at this Christmas Season.

Cordially yours,

(Signed) Franklin D. Roosevelt

Rabbi Cyrus Adler,
President, Jewish Theological
Seminary of America,
Broadway and 123d Street,
New York, New York.

A true copy of
the signed original
fm

December 23, 1939

CONFIDENTIAL
HOLD FOR RELEASE

CONFIDENTIAL
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CONFIDENTIAL
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NOTE: To be held in the strictest of confidence until published.

For publication in all editions of morning papers of Sunday, December 24, 1939. No intimation, excerpt or reference to this announcement is to be used by radio announcers before 7:00 P.M., E.S.T., today.

PLEASE SAFEGUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

The President announced today that he had sent a Christmas letter to the Pope, as head of the Catholic Church, to Dr. George A. Buttrick, President of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, as a Protestant leader, and to Rabbi Cyrus Adler, President of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, a leader of the Jewish faith.

In his letter to the Pope, the President indicated his intention to send a representative of the President to Rome in order that parallel endeavors for peace and the alleviation of suffering may be assisted. He announced that he had appointed Mr. Myron C. Taylor as his representative, to take up questions arising out of the abnormal world situation. It is understood that Mr. Taylor will not sail for some weeks.

The President's letter to the Pope was transmitted through Archbishop Spellman of New York, who, with Mr. A. A. Berle, Jr., Assistant Secretary of State, today handed it to Archbishop Ciccognani, Apostolic Delegate in Washington for delivery to the Pope. Archbishop Spellman lunched with President Roosevelt today and returned to New York.

The President, in his letter to them, requested Dr. Buttrick, as President of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ and Dr. Adler to visit him from time to time to discuss with him the problems arising out of the world situation.

The President's letter to the Pope reads, in full, as follows:

"December 23, 1939

"Your Holiness:

"Because, at this Christmas time, the world is in sorrow, it is especially fitting that I send you a message of greeting and of faith.

"The world has created for itself a civilization capable of giving to mankind security and peace firmly set in the foundations of religious teachings. Yet, though it has conquered the earth, the sea, and even the air, civilization today passes through war and travail.

"I take heart in remembering that in a similar time, Isaiah first prophesied the birth of Christ. Then, several centuries before His coming, the condition of the world was not unlike that which we see today. Then, as now, a conflagration had been set; and nations walked dangerously in the light of the fires they had themselves kindled. But in that very moment a spiritual rebirth was foreseen, - a new day which was to loose the captives and to consume the conquerors in the fire of their own kindling; and those who had taken the sword were to perish by the sword. There was promised a new age wherein through renewed faith the upward progress of the human race would

become more secure.

"Again, during the several centuries which we refer to as the Dark Ages, the flame and sword of barbarians swept over Western civilization; and, again, through a rekindling of the inherent spiritual spark in mankind, another rebirth brought back order and culture and religion.

"I believe that the travail of today is a new form of these old conflicts. Because the tempo of all worldly things has been so greatly accelerated in these modern days we can hope that the period of darkness and destruction will be vastly shorter than in the olden times.

"In their hearts men decline to accept, for long, the law of destruction forced upon them by wielders of brute force. Always they seek, sometimes in silence, to find again the faith without which the welfare of nations and the peace of the world cannot be rebuilt.

"I have the rare privilege of reading the letters and confidences of thousands of humble people, living in scores of different nations. Their names are not known to history, but their daily work and courage carry on the life of the world. I know that these, and uncounted numbers like them in every country, are looking for a guiding light. We remember that the Christmas Star was first seen by shepherds in the hills, long before the leaders knew of the Great Light which had entered the world.

"I believe that while statesmen are considering a new order of things, the new order may well be at hand. I believe that it is even now being built, silently but inevitably, in the hearts of masses whose voices are not heard, but whose common faith will write the final history of our time. They know that unless there is belief in some guiding principle and some trust in a divine plan, nations are without light, and peoples perish. They know that the civilization handed down to us by our fathers was built by men and women who knew in their hearts that all were brothers because they were children of God. They believe that by His will enmities can be healed; that in His mercy the weak can find deliverance, and the strong can find grace in helping the weak.

"In the grief and terror of the hour, these quiet voices, if they can be heard, may yet tell of the rebuilding of the world.

"It is well that the world should think of this at Christmas.

"Because the people of this nation have come to a realization that time and distance no longer exist in the older sense, they understand that that which harms one segment of humanity harms all the rest. They know that only by friendly association between the seekers of light and the seekers of peace everywhere can the forces of evil be overcome.

"In these present moments, no spiritual leader, no civil leader can move forward on a specific plan to terminate destruction and build anew. Yet the time for that will surely come.

"It is, therefore, my thought that though no given action or given time may now be prophesied, it is well that we encourage a closer association between those in every part of the world - those in religion and those in government - who have a common purpose.

"I am, therefore, suggesting to Your Holiness that it would give me great satisfaction to send to you my personal representative in order that our parallel endeavors for peace and the alleviation of suffering may be assisted.

"When the time shall come for the reestablishment of world peace on a surer foundation, it is of the utmost importance to humanity and to religion that common ideals shall have united expression.

"Furthermore, when that happy day shall dawn, great problems of practical import will face us all. Millions of people of all races, all nationalities and all religions may seek new lives by migration to other lands or by reestablishment of old homes. Here, too, common ideals call for parallel action.

"I trust, therefore, that all of the churches of the world which believe in a common God will throw the great weight of their influence into this great cause.

"To you, whom I have the privilege of calling a good friend and an old friend, I send my respectful greetings at this Christmas Season.

"Cordially yours,

"FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

His Holiness
Pius XII,
Rome, Italy."

The President's letter to Dr. Buttrick reads, in full, as follows:

"December 23, 1939

"My dear Dr. Buttrick:

"Because, at this Christmas time, the world is in sorrow, it is especially fitting that I send you a message of greeting and of faith. Realizing the spiritual kinship of all who believe in a common God, I have sent a like greeting to the Pope as head of the Catholic Church, and to Rabbi Cyrus Adler as an outstanding leader of the Jewish faith.

"The world has created for itself a civilization capable of giving to mankind security and peace firmly set in the foundations of religious teachings. Yet, though it has conquered the earth, the sea, and even the air, civilization today passes through war and travail.

"I take heart in remembering that in a similar time, Isaiah first prophesied the birth of Christ. Then, several centuries before His coming, the condition of the world was not unlike that which we see today. Then, as now, a conflagration had been set; and nations walked dangerously in the light of the fires they had themselves kindled. But in that very moment a spiritual rebirth was foreseen, - a new day which was to loose the captives and to consume the conquerors in the fire of their own kindling; and those who had taken the sword were to perish by the sword. There was promised a new age wherein through renewed faith the upward progress of the human race would become more secure.

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"I believe that while statesmen are considering a new order of things, the new order may well be at hand. I believe that it is even now being built, silently but inevitably, in the hearts of masses whose voices are not heard, but whose common faith will write the final history of our time. They know that unless there is belief in some guiding principle and some trust in a divine plan, nations are without light, and peoples perish. They know that the civilization handed down to us by our fathers was built by men and women who knew in their hearts that all were brothers because they were children of God. They believe that by His will enemies can be healed; that in His mercy the weak can find deliverance, and the strong can find grace in helping the weak.

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"In these present moments, no spiritual leader, no civil leader can move forward on a specific plan to terminate destruction and build anew. Yet the time for that will surely come.

"It is, therefore, my thought that though no given action or given time may not be prophesied, it is well that we encourage a closer association between those in every part of the world -- those in religion and those in government -- who have a common purpose.

"I therefore suggest that it would give me great satisfaction if you would, from time to time, come to Washington to discuss the problems which all of us have on our minds, in order that our parallel endeavors for peace and the alleviation of suffering may be assisted.

"When the time shall come for the reestablishment of world peace on a surer foundation, it is of the utmost importance to humanity and to religion that common ideals shall have united expression.

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"I trust, therefore, that all of the churches of the world which believe in a common God will throw the great weight of their influence into this great cause.

"To you, whom I have the privilege of calling a good friend, I send my sincere greetings at this Christmas Season.

"Cordially yours,

"Franklin D. Roosevelt

"Dr. George A. Buttrick,
President, Federal Council of the
Churches of Christ in America,
297 Fourth Avenue,
New York, New York."

The President's letter to Rabbi Adler reads, in full, as follows:

"December 23, 1939

"My dear Rabbi Adler:

"Because, at this Christmas time, the world is in sorrow, it is especially fitting that I send you a message of greeting and of faith. Realizing the spiritual kinship of all who believe in a common God, I have sent a like greeting to the President of the Federal Council of Churches in Christ and to the Pope, as head of the Catholic Church. You will, perhaps, permit me to send this message through you, as President of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, to all members of that faith, among whose rabbis I have many friends.

"The world has created for itself a civilization capable of giving to mankind security and peace firmly set in the foundations of religious teachings. Yet, though it has conquered the earth, the sea, and even the air, civilization today passes through war and travail.

"I take heart in remembering that in a similar time, Isaiah first prophesied the birth of Christ. Then, several centuries before His coming, the condition of the world was not unlike that which we see today. Then, as now, a conflagration had been set; and nations walked dangerously in the light of the fires they had themselves kindled. But in that very moment a spiritual rebirth was foreseen, - a new day which was to loose the captives and to consume the conquerors in the fire of their own kindling; and those who had taken the sword were to perish by the sword. There was promised a new age where in through renewed faith the upward progress of the human race would become more secure.

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"In their hearts men decline to accept, for long, the law of destruction forced upon them by wielders of brute force. Always they seek, sometimes in silence, to find again the faith without which the welfare of nations and the peace of the world cannot be rebuilt.

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"I believe that while statesmen are considering a new order of things, the new order may well be at hand. I believe that it is even now being built, silently but inevitably, in the hearts of masses whose voices are not heard, but whose common faith will write the final history of our time. They know that unless there is belief in some guiding principle and some trust in a divine plan, nations are without light, and peoples perish. They know that the civilization handed down to us by our fathers was built by men and women who knew in their hearts that all were brothers because they were children of God. They believe that by His will enmities can be healed; that in His mercy the weak can find deliverance, and the strong can find grace in helping the weak.

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"It is well that the world should think of this at Christmas.

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"It is, therefore, my thought that though no given action or given time may now be prophesied, it is well that we encourage a closer association between those in every part of the world - those in religion and those in government - who have a common purpose.

"I, therefore, suggest that it would give me great satisfaction if you would from time to time come to Washington to discuss the problem which all of us have on our minds, in order that our parallel endeavors for peace and the alleviation of suffering may be assisted.

"When the time shall come for the reestablishment of world peace on a surer foundation, it is of the utmost importance to humanity and to religion that common ideals shall have united expression.

"Furthermore, when that happy day shall dawn, great problems of practical import will face us all. Millions of people of all races, all nationalities and all religions may seek new lives by migration to other lands or by reestablishment of old homes. Here, too, common ideals call for parallel action.

"I trust, therefore, that all of the churches of the world which believe in a common God will throw the great weight of their influence into this great cause.

"To you, whom I have the privilege of calling a good friend and an old friend, I send my sincere greetings at this Christmas Season.

"Cordially yours,

"FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Rabbi Cyrus Adler,
President, Jewish Theological
Seminary of America,
Broadway and 123d Street,
New York, New York."

(END)

The President has received the following acknowledgments to the Christmas letters he addressed to the Pope as head of the Catholic Church, to Doctor George A. Buttrick, President of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, as a Protestant leader, and to Rabbi Cyrus Adler, President of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, as a leader of the Jewish faith:

"New York, N. Y.,
December 23, 1939

"The President:

"This telegram gratefully acknowledges your Christmas message of hope and faith. We are glad that through your action we have the public opportunity to extend our cordial greetings to His Holiness, The Pope and to Dr. Cyrus Adler and to all whom they represent. We share your confidence that men and women in every land have a basic faith in God and therefore in human brotherhood, and that even in the present chaos and darkness they are preparing a better day. We join you in the prayer that a lasting peace of justice and good will may soon bless mankind. Your invitation to the continued opportunity of conference is gratefully accepted. The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America pledges itself through you to the people of America and of every church and land to seek under God a world order in which unmerited poverty and lurking fear and the threat of war shall be banished. Appreciating the leadership indicated in your telegram, we assure you of our Christmas wishes and our prayers that God may guide you.

"GEORGE A. BUTTRICK

"President of the Federal Council of
the Churches of Christ in America."

"3339 Massachusetts Avenue,
Washington, D. C.,
December 25, 1939

"The Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, D. D.,
Archbishop of New York,
452 Madison Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

"Your Excellency,

"His Eminence, the Cardinal Secretary of State, requests me to acknowledge receipt of the message of the 23rd inst. of His Excellency, the President of the United States of America, to His Holiness, Pope Pius the Twelfth. I am charged to assure the President, through Your Excellency, that the message brought very great joy to the heart of the Holy Father, coming from so exalted a source, inspired by such noble sentiments, and containing such high hopes of spiritual and civil benefits for the cause of peace. While the Holy Father desires Himself to make a personal and official reply to His Excellency, the President, for so important and significant a document, I am requested to express to the President His Holiness' profound gratitude for the choice of the Hon. Myron Taylor as the representative of the President of the United States of America, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary. The Holy Father desires to assure the President that His representative will be cordially received in a manner befitting the highly important mission entrusted to him.

"The Holy Father invokes the heavenly assistance of Almighty God, on the occasion of Christmas, upon the President of the United States and the whole American Nation.

"In transmitting this letter to Your Excellency, I desire to request that you express graciously to the President my own sentiments of deepest esteem.

"With cordial good wishes, I remain

"Sincerely yours in Christ,

A. G. Cicognani

Archbishop of Laodicea,
Apostolic Delegate."

"Philadelphia, Pa.
December 24, 1939

The President
The White House

"I am only now able to acknowledge your telegram of December 23rd. owing to delay in delivery of the message which has just reached me. Your fellow countrymen and the world at large take new courage from the fact that you are again throwing your vivid and forceful leadership into the cause for peace.

"It is a noble deed to bring the forces of religion together. I have the confident hope that the leaders will unite the members of their churches and synagogues into a unanimous support of your efforts. I gladly take the opportunity to send good wishes to His Holiness the Pope and to Dr. Buttrick and feel sure that all true men of good faith will in their several ways follow your inspired leadership.

"I shall of course convey your message to the various rabbinical associations for transmission to their congregations but I can say without qualifications that the watchword of the Jewish people in Israel's mission is peace and that this holds true for all the scattered communities to which the Jewish people have been dispersed and are now alas being further dispersed with great brutality.

"I take this occasion to express to you our grateful thanks for the bringing together of the Evian conference and the further efforts you have made in aid of the sorely tried refugees.

"It will be a privilege for me to have the opportunity to visit you at the White House. With the hope that you will have the time to spend a happy holiday with your family I am faithfully yours.

Cyrus Adler,

President Jewish Theological
Seminary of America."

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

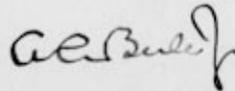
December 26, 1939

My dear Miss Tully:

I am enclosing herewith the last draft, prior to fair copying, of the letter sent by President Roosevelt to Pope Pius XII on December 23rd.

I am glad that the President approves the idea of sending a photostat copy of these drafts, together with a fair copy, to Archbishop Spellman in New York. In view of his great work in the matter, I am very sure that he will value them. There is attached a copy of the transmission letter to Archbishop Spellman.

Sincerely yours,



Enclosures:

As stated.

Miss Grace Tully,
The White House.

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(Draft: December 19, 1939)

Your Holiness:

Because, at this Christmas time, the world is in sorrow, it is especially fitting that I send you a message of greeting and of faith.

The ~~Western~~ world has ^{created} built for itself a civilization ^{capable of giving to mankind security and peace} ~~surpassing the dreams of poets~~. Yet, though it has conquered the earth, the sea, and even the air, ^{civilization} ~~it is now~~ ^{history} passing ^{is} through war and travail.

firmly set in the foundations of religious teachings

I take heart in remembering that in a similar time, Isaiah first prophesied the birth of Christ. Then, several centuries before His coming, the condition of the world was not unlike that which we see today. [It was said, as it is said now, that the prey could not be taken from the mighty; and that the captives could not be delivered.] Then, as now, ^{a conflagration set} the world had been ~~on fire~~, and nations walked dangerously in the light of the fires they had themselves kindled. ~~instead of seeking a clearer light from above.~~ But in that very moment a spiritual ^{- a new day} rebirth was foreseen, which was to loose the captives and

to consume the conquerors in the fire of their own

kindling; and those who had taken the sword were to perish

by the sword. *This was promised a new age wherein through*

renowned faith the upward progress of the human race would
~~of nations; and, in new faith, this gathering was to~~
~~become more secure.~~

~~establish a foundation of lasting peace.~~

A

I believe that the travail of today is ~~really~~ a new
form of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~old~~ ^{conflict} ~~struggle~~. We still ~~struggle~~ ^{struggle} for a moral ^{quest}

order on which life may be based. Unless there is
acceptance of a higher law, the restraints which make
civilized life possible are broken down. Without it,
the peace which opened the way for knowledge and achieve-
ment no longer holds; and the world is laid waste by
wielders of brute force, who at length are crushed in
their turn.

Yet in their hearts men decline to accept, for long,
the law of animals. Always they seek, sometimes in silence,
to find again the faith without which the welfare of
nations ~~and the peace of the world cannot be rebuilt.~~

NH 21 I have the rare privilege of reading the letters

living in peace of different nations.

and confidences of thousands of humble people, Their names are not known to history, but their daily work and courage carry on the life of the world. I know that these, and uncounted numbers like them in every country, are looking for a guiding light. ~~Perhaps it is well to remember~~ ^{we} that the Christmas Star was first seen by ~~humble~~ shepherds in the hills, long before the leaders knew of the ^G great light which had entered the world.

I believe that while statesmen are considering a new order of things, the new order may well be at hand. I believe that it is even now being built, silently but inevitably, in the hearts of masses whose voices are not heard, but whose common faith will write the final history of our time. They know that unless there is belief in some guiding principle and some trust in a divine plan, nations are without light, and peoples perish. They know that the civilization handed down to us by our fathers was built by men and women who knew in their hearts that all were brothers because they were children of God. They believe

~~that in His name a truce can be made over every battle line,~~
that by His will enmities can be healed; that in His mercy
the weak can find deliverance, and the strong can find grace
in helping the weak.

In the grief and terror of the hour, these quiet
voices, if they can be heard, may yet tell of the rebuild-
ing of the world. ~~I believe they will tell of the law of~~
~~God which shall be a light to the people; and of a new~~
~~earth; of a gathering of nations to give peace to him that~~
~~is near and him that is far.~~

~~A great German has observed that it is no more difficult~~
~~to practice than to believe, if we but stand erect and say~~
~~to God, We will!~~

~~This, to me, is the Christmas light.~~

B.

(INSERT A)

Again, during the several centuries which we refer to as the Dark Ages, flame and sword swept over Western civilization; and, again, through a rekindling of the inherent spiritual spark in mankind, another rebirth brought back order and culture and religion.

I believe that the travail of today is a new form of these old conflicts. Because the tempo of all worldly things has been so greatly accelerated in these modern days we can hope that the period of darkness and destruction will be vastly shorter than in the olden times.

In their hearts men decline to accept, for long, the law of destruction forced upon them by wielders of brute force. Always they seek, sometimes in silence, to find again the faith without which the welfare of nations and the peace of the world cannot be rebuilt.

(INSERT B)

It is well that the world should think of this at Christmas.

Because the people of this nation have come to a realization that time and distance no longer exist in the older sense, they understand that that which harms one segment of humanity harms all the rest. They know that only by friendly association between the seekers of light and the seekers of peace everywhere can the forces of evil be overcome.

In these present moments, no spiritual leader, no civil leader can move forward on a specific plan to terminate destruction and build anew. ^{yet} The time for that will surely come.

It is, therefore, ^{but if} my ~~thought~~ that though ~~no~~ given action or given time may now be prophesied, it is well that we encourage a closer association between those in every part of the world - those in religion and those in government - who have a common purpose.

(7) I am, therefore, suggesting to Your Holiness that it would give me great satisfaction to send to you my personal representative in order that our parallel endeavors for peace and the alleviation of sufferings may be assisted.

When the time shall come for the reestablishment of world peace on a surer foundation, it is of the utmost importance to humanity and to religion that common ideals shall have united expression.

Furthermore, when that happy day shall dawn, great problems of practical import will face us all. Millions of people of all races, all nationalities and all religions may seek new lives by migration to other lands or by re-establishment of old homes. Here, too, common ideals call for parallel action.

I trust, therefore, that all of the churches of the world which believe in a common God will throw the great weight of their influence into this great cause.

To you, whom I have the privilege of calling a good friend and an old friend, I send my respectful greetings at this Christmas Season.

PAGE MISSING IN THE ORIGINAL

become more secure.

*Archbishop
Spellman's
Comment*

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PAGE MISSING IN THE ORIGINAL

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I trust, therefore, that all of the churches of the world which believe in a common God will throw the great weight of their influence into this great cause.

To you, whom I have the privilege of calling a good friend and an old friend, I send my respectful greetings as this Christmas Season.

My dear Archbishop Spellman:

After speaking to the President, I take pleasure in sending you, under separate cover, a bound copy of photostats of the President's message of December 23, 1939 to Pope Pius XII. Bound with them is a copy of the cablegram sent by the State Department to the American Embassy at Rome, which contains the text of the message and the advice of the appointment of Myron Taylor, as special representative.

In view of your sincere and powerful work to reopen a channel which I am sure will be of deep and growing significance, I believe you will find the documents a happy remembrance of the historic event in which you played so large a part. You will note the drafting and redrafting in the President's handwriting.

I take this opportunity to wish for Your Excellency

a

The Most Reverend

Francis J. Spellman,

Archbishop of New York.

- 2 -

a Happy New Year, and to hope that our friendship
may continue.

With warm personal regards, I am

Faithfully yours,

Enclosure

file - [1939]
Glady

Memorandum to Secretary Hull
From the President

In re-the question of refugees of various faiths who will have to start life in a new environment at the termination of the European War. What to do about them. Wishes Cordell Hull to speak to him about this matter.

See: Cordell Hull folder-Drawer 1-1939

C O P Y

LONGHAND - SUMNER WELLES - PLEASE SEND IN CODE

PSF: Italy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

F. D. R.

Italy 4

February 8, 1940.

WILLIAM PHILLIPS
ROME

PERSONAL

Can you personally and discreetly get word to the Secretary of State at the Vatican that if it is planned to appoint a Bishop or Archbishop for Washington, I would like to emphasize the utmost importance of the close relationship with the Government at the seat of Government regardless of what Administration happens to be in power? Although this is but one relatively small diocese, words spoken here are of necessity heard throughout the Nation. Mr. Taylor, who will soon be in Italy, understands the situation and will be glad to talk with The Holy Father if it is desired.

F. D. R.

276
4

February 14, 1940.

For copy of the President's longhand letter to Mussolini
of Feb 14, 1940 presented, in person, by Sumner Welles on
his Secret Mission abroad.

See: Sumner Welles-Drawer 1-1940

Italy
11

Letter from Myron Taylor to the President-March 15, 1940.
re attached album of photographs taken of his reception
in Italy while representing the President at the Vatican.
The President's reply of April 3, 1940 attached.

The above given to Miss Le Hand on April 9, 1940 for the
President.

*file
personal*

*PSF: 9/10/47
4*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 21, 1940.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE PRESIDENT

Harry Hooker telephoned to say that he had a cablegram from Myron Taylor today from Rome as follows:

"Please phone our mutual friend to forget for the present time expense matter and that I understand the situation".

copy

PSF: Italy
4

April 30, 1940.

EXTRA ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Secretary Morgenthau phoned the following message:

"The Italian Government have placed eight million dollars worth of gold on the "REX", which has sailed, and on the "ROMA", which does not sail until May 2nd, due to arrive here on the fifteenth of May.

They have also placed orders here for \$250,000 worth of cotton linters and \$500,000 worth of copper. Those were placed today and yesterday."

E.M.W.

For original of the above memo
See: Henry Morgenthau folder-Drawer 1-1940

Published in

Foreign Relations of the United States

1940, Vol. IV, General and Europe

pages 695-698

RLS 4/6/59

Copy, FDRL, 1-23-56, nva

PSF: Italy

5-2-40

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington

January 19, 1956

Dear Mr. Kahn:

With regard to our previous correspondence on memoranda by Under Secretary of State Sumner Welles of conversations between President Roosevelt and the Italian Ambassador on March 23, 1939, and May 2, 1940, I can now report that having just received clearance from the appropriate area office of the Department of State, we will proceed to publish the documents in "Foreign Relations", 1939 and 1940. You may assume that the decision to publish and clearance to do so are the equivalent of declassification.

Sincerely yours,

Sgd. E. R. Perkins
E. R. Perkins
Chief, Foreign Relations Branch
Historical Division

Mr. Herman Kahn, Director,
The Franklin D. Roosevelt Library,
Hyde Park, New York.

PSF Italy

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 2, 1940

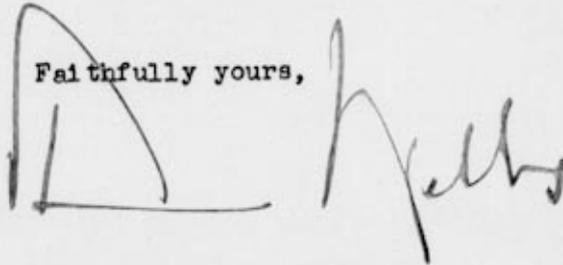
*File Personal
Confidential*

My dear Mr. President:

I am enclosing herewith a memorandum I have made of your conversation of today's date with the Italian Ambassador.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,



Enc.

The President,
The White House.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Memorandum of Conversation*DATE: May 2, 1940

SUBJECT:

~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

PARTICIPANTS:

The President;
The Italian Ambassador, Don Ascanio dei principi Colonna;
The Under Secretary, Mr. Welles.

COPIES TO:

*** 1-1493

The President received at noon today the Italian Ambassador, whom I accompanied to the White House.

The Ambassador stated that he had requested to be received by the President by instruction of his Government in order to communicate to the President textually a message addressed to the President by Mussolini. This message, the Ambassador said, was a clarification of some of the statements which the Duce had made on the preceding day in his conversation with Ambassador Phillips in Rome. The Ambassador did not leave a written copy of the message, but read it to the President. The following are the essential points in the message.

Mussolini first stated that Germany should not be held responsible for the occupation of Denmark and for the invasion of Norway inasmuch as the Allied Governments were solely to blame for the steps taken by Germany in Scandinavia.

Mussolini stated that it was entirely correct that Italy was responsible for the fact that the two hundred millions of people in the Mediterranean region were now at peace. Notwithstanding this, he said, Italy was being constantly subjected to vexatious and harassing restrictions upon the freedom of her commerce within the Mediterranean by Great Britain, and there could not be any stable peace until and unless Italy attained her liberty and freedom from such restrictions.

Mussolini then said, "It is not believed that Germany is desirous of any extension of the present scene of hostilities. Italy definitely does not desire any extension of hostilities." He went on to say that whether such extension of hostilities occurred would be determined by the Allied powers.

Mussolini then continued by saying that the British Empire had an absolute monopoly in the world of many essential raw materials. The Italian Government desired equality of opportunity with all other governments in having raw materials at its disposal, but it did not

desire to obtain any such monopoly as that now enjoyed by Great Britain.

Mussolini then referred to that portion of the President's message to him of the preceding day which referred to the possibility, should an extension of the scene of hostilities now take place, with particular regard to the Mediterranean region, that all other portions of the globe, including the three Americas, might be forced to undertake to defend themselves. The policy of the Italian Government, Mussolini stated categorically, had been to refrain from any interference in the relations between the American Republics in deference to the Monroe Doctrine. Mussolini believed that reciprocally the American Republics would not interfere in the relations between European powers. Mussolini therefore stated that he did not understand why an extension of the scene of hostilities in Europe should be regarded as bringing about a threat to the involvement of the three Americas.

In conclusion Mussolini stated that with due regard to certain considerations above set forth and with due regard to existing circumstances, the Government of Italy was fully disposed to work for a better and a more stable world order.

The President then stated that he desired the Ambassador to tell Mussolini that he was gratified by the receipt of this message, and that he regarded the last paragraph as particularly encouraging. He said he felt that the influence of both Italy and the United States was very great so long as they remained out of the hostilities, and that he was particularly happy to know that Italy, like the Government of the United States, was desirous of exercising its influence in behalf of the establishment of a better and a more stable world order.

The President then said that, with regard to the first paragraph of Mussolini's message relative to the invasion of Denmark and Norway, he did not believe that there was anything to be gained by a discussion of what had taken place prior to the actual invasion of those two countries. The fact remained, he said, that the invasion had been undertaken by Germany, and that for the commission of the act itself only Germany could be held responsible.

The President said he fully recognized that interference with the commerce of neutral powers such as Italy on the high seas by the Allied nations was exasperating and created natural irritation. He called attention to

the fact, however, that nations engaged in the war resorted to such measures as a part of their belligerent activities. He reminded the Ambassador that the United States itself was of course not free from such interference, and added as an illustration that American airplanes traveling from the United States to Europe and stopping at Bermuda had had American mail from the United States seized by the British authorities at that place and searched. As an indication of why the British authorities felt this procedure warranted, the President stated that in one lot of mail so searched the British found \$234,000 in American currency destined for Germany included in correspondence dispatched in that way.

The President then went on to clarify the reasons for the belief which he had expressed to Mussolini that an extension of hostilities into the Mediterranean might result eventually in such a situation as to cause the three Americas to defend themselves. He said that if, as a result of such an extension of the scene of warfare, any one power or group of powers succeeded in extending their domination over the whole of Europe, that would inevitably result in the extension of such domination over the whole of Africa as well. As an inevitable result, every republic in the Western Hemisphere would find itself compelled to arm to the utmost extent, and such an

armament race would, after a very short time, result in complete ruin for all but one of the participants in such an armament race. The exception, the President said, was the United States which, because of its population, its almost inexhaustible material resources and its preponderant financial resources, could withstand the strain longer than any power in the world. To these remarks the Ambassador nodded his emphatic agreement.

The President then went on to say that an extension of hostilities into the Mediterranean would immediately result in very grave prejudice to American trade and commerce and to the freedom of navigation of American ships in the Mediterranean area. The President said that he wished here to cite certain historical precedents which would be illustrative to the Ambassador of what the President had in mind. He said that in 1803, as a result of constant harassing and interference with American shipping in the Mediterranean, including even the capture of American citizens on American ships by the Barbary corsairs sent out by the Dey of Algiers, the Bey of Tunis and the Sultan of Morocco, the Government of the United States finally dispatched American naval vessels to the Mediterranean, which eventually forced the various rulers of North Africa to refrain from further interference with American shipping. When in 1815 there was a further

seizure of American merchant vessels in that same region, a further naval force was sent by the United States and, as a result of these forceful measures, there had been no further interference with legitimate American trade in the Mediterranean area. The Government of the United States, the President said, necessarily had an obligation to assure full and due protection to peaceful trade interests of the United States in that area.

With regard to the efforts of the two Governments, Italy and the United States, to work for a better and a more stable world order, the President said he had already informed Mussolini, as the latter would remember, that the United States would be glad to participate in international efforts to achieve the reduction of armaments and the creation of a liberal international economic system. He could not, however, agree with the belief expressed to me in my conversations with Mussolini in Rome that the finding of a political agreement in Europe must precede agreements upon disarmament and a sound economic system. As the President envisaged it, the three efforts must be made simultaneously and, while the United States could not participate in the negotiations leading up to a political settlement and would limit itself

to participating in the disarmament and economic negotiations, the President nevertheless thought it essential that the three negotiations be conducted simultaneously. The President here referred to the phrase used in the Far East - "face saving". He said that very often it might be impossible for a power negotiating a political settlement to make certain concessions of a political character unless it had some quid pro quo to show to its people as a justification for such a concession and that if some economic concession or some concession in the disarmament discussions could be obtained simultaneously in the favor of such power, in return for a political concession which it might make, a solution could be obtained which could not be found otherwise.

In concluding the conversation with the Ambassador the President asked that Mussolini be assured that the President was gratified with the message sent to him, and that he hoped that Mussolini and himself could continue to communicate in the same manner from now on, any message the President desired to send to be transmitted through Ambassador Phillips in Rome and any message Mussolini desired to send to be communicated to the President through the Italian Ambassador in Washington.



June 10, 1940.

Declaration of war has been delivered to the Ambassadors. Mussolini started by saying that Italy is living through hours of irrevocable decision.

Declaration of war has been delivered to the Ambassadors of Great Britain and France.

We are fighting against the pluto-Democracies whose owners hamper the progress of the Italian people.

Mussolini is referring now to the sanctions that were applied to Italy by the democracies at the time of the Ethiopian campaign.

Our conscience is not bothering us in the least. It is clear.

..... is witness to the fact that Fascist Italy has done everything that was humanly possible to avoid war, but everything has been in vain.

It would have been enough to revise all treaties. It would have been enough not to begin the policies of guarantees which have proved disastrous for those nations which have accepted them. It would have been enough to have accepted the peace that was offered last October, at the end of the Polish campaign.

All this belongs to the past. We are now ready to go into this war because we believe that a great people must honor the engagements which it has contracted.

We want to break the chains that keep us prisoners in the Mediterranean Sea because a population, a nation of 45 million people cannot really be free unless it has free access to the ocean.

This gigantic fight is not anything but one phase, one development of our evolution.

It is a revolution against those who try to starve us, those who control all the wealth, all the gold in the world.

It is a fight between the young people against the old decadent people. It is a fight between two centuries, between two different conceptions of life.

Italy does not want to draw any other people into this fight, neighboring nations, whether they are next to Italy by land or by sea.

During a memorable meeting in Berlin I said that according to the Fascist code of vows, when a person has a friend he travels with him the whole length.

This we have done and we shall do with Germany and with her victorious armies we shall fight.

Mussolini has just asked the people to pay homage to his Majesty, the Italian King.

(This was taken by Kamee during speech)

file
Mussolini
Mussolini
Italy

Italy, the totalitarian and Fascist Italy, is standing up
for the third time, proud and strong.

Our slogan is one -- consists in only one word -- to win.

And we shall win.

And we shall win, to give, finally, to Italy, to Europe
and to the world a long period of peace, with
justice.

Italian people -- use your arms your courage, your
constance and your valor.

* * * *

Send to State Dept
to send by Pouch

Done

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF
COORDINATION AND REVIEW

September 27, 1940

Mr. Forster:

I am very sorry that the
attached file was omitted from
the Department's letter of
August 25 to the President which
contained a draft reply to
the communication from Pope Pius XII.

B. Halla

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

Letter signed by the President, 10/1/40, to His Holiness the Pope,
sent to the State Dept. for delivery.

COPY

Vatican City,
August 22, 1940

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I was very sorry, when I heard from Mr. Phillips on June 10th that you were sick, and I feel I must congratulate you on your recovery. I avoided bothering you, altho I should have been glad to meet you since the war developed. And now that you are leaving Rome, I regret I cannot meet you before your departure.

X May I tell you how much I fear that America is realizing too slowly the real situation in Europe. You remember certainly the propaganda map distributed to German inhabitants of Sudetenland in October 1938, that I am enclosing in photographic copy for your convenience. Did you observe that the part of France presently occupied by German army is exactly the piece which is indicated there for incorporation to the Reich? I suppose that the mood and terms of the French capitulation will have modified America's feelings toward France, but please consider that it was the very effect of the twin activity of Communistic and Pro-German fifth columns. Will not it have the same effect in U.S.A., where foreign activities seem to be still not sufficiently controlled? Is not it a pitiful situation that democracies in times of troubles seem unable to take in time the proper resolutions? L

Meanwhile I beg to wish you Bon voyage and to tell me, Dear Mr. Taylor,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) EUGENE CARD. TISSERANT.

4054
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Devi
COSEI
COPY

CHATEAU D'ORMESSON (historical monument of the XVI and XVIII centuries) situated at Ormesson-sur-Marne in the South-east region of Paris (20 Km from Paris on the road of Provins) belongs to Count d'Ormesson, French Ambassador to the Holy See.

The Chateau is at present in the occupation of the German military forces.

Would it be possible for Mr. Myron Taylor to cause the German military authorities concerned to be informed that he would be grateful for assurances that his colleague's chateau and all its contents will be cared for and preserved during the period of occupation.

COPI

COPY

Request for the deliverance or captivity licence of
the French prisoner of war

LIEUTENANT GERARD LANNES de MONTEBELLO

OFLAG - IV - D

GERMANY

Lieutenant of Reserve. Born in 1903. Took his degrees in agriculture. Directs personally his farms situated in French occupied territory (Normandy and Seine & Oise) so as the rearing of his cattle.

He is the only son still living of a widowed mother and father of three infant children.

COPIA

COPY

VERY CONFIDENTIAL.

Extracts of letters from France (July 1940).

"Everything I see in France, since my return, makes my heart ache terribly. There is actually no communication whatsoever between the Occupied Zone and the Unoccupied. One is cut off from news. But what one hears from the Occupied Zone is anything but comforting. The Germans are installed everywhere and seem to be settling in permanently.

"They are in occupation of all chateaux and seem already to be robbing them. In the Castle of A., which belongs to nephews of ours, the I's, they have removed everything including the old panelling on the walls. We shall probably find nothing left at home, where 70 Germans are living. Very near our place, at the Castle of G., the owners remained. The Germans have left them three rooms and occupy the whole of the rest of the immense Castle. At C., in the Cote d'Or, Mrs. Tyler has advised the V's to return as soon as possible, otherwise nothing will be left in their house. At M. Paul Claudel's in Dauphine, the Germans stayed ten days and ransacked everything.

"They are robbing France. They buy every single thing they find in the shops with paper Marks, which the people are obliged to accept. Even in the Unoccupied Zone the German Commissioners of Control go everywhere and loot the shops. Soon there will be no supplies left in France. One

AREA C

shudders to think of the future.

"The Germans are already trying to enlist French youth in Hitlerian organizations. In certain Departments they have organized camps, to which they have brought young Nazis, and they oblige the local French boys to go to these camps; they have even dressed them in the uniform of the Hitler Youth.

"The grip on France is tightening every day. Our miserable country is a hostage in German hands."

"Hitler is preparing to strangle France little by little, if the war goes on, in order to induce all the neutral countries, and above all the United States, to bring pressure to bear on Great Britain and to persuade her to abandon the struggle and to accept the victory of Germany out of compassion for the millions of families which will suffer agony in France, Belgium, Holland (not to speak of Poland).

"The only hope which remains for civilized Europe is that the United States should, on the contrary, exert pressure on Germany, so that she should be the one to stop the struggle, accepting a reasonable status of Europe; failing which, the United States would intervene alongside England, in order to save justice and civilization."

11-18-44

Romhs Kill Child

Germany Will Have Spread in Every Direction

immediately. There w

VERY CONFIDENTIAL.

Moreover the French Government cannot but note that there exists now, in the Italian papers, a strong and bitter prejudice against France, towards which they suggest that Italy entertains a profound and ruthless hatred and a spirit of revenge. A certain number of articles and news printed, for instance, in the "Giornale d'Italia", in the "Stampa", in the "Popolo d'Italia", show that permanent tendency.

Notwithstanding that the Government of Marshal Petain have not concealed their desire to establish a frank and loyal collaboration between the two Latin countries, regardless of a war hardly fought, but which might have brought in France resentment against Italy.

Must the French Government assume that to those kind and generous dispositions - and to a perfect understanding of the need of making sacrifices to Italy when peace comes - the Fascist Government want to answer only with contemptuous and hostile feelings?

If it were true, how could a real and sound "peace with justice" be built in unfortunate Europe?

ATION FORCE CING S

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Defeat

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RESULTS

Page 30.)

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Amen Demands Probation Data Being 'Edited'

Held Up for Almost
A Year, Said to Bare
Political Influence

By FREDERICK WOLTMAN,
World-Telegram Staff Writer.

As one of his first steps in his investigation of Kings County, Special Prosecutor John Harlan Amen will subpoena an extensive survey into the court's probation system which the State Department of Correction made a year ago and is alleged to have suppressed for almost a year, it was reported today.

The survey is said to show political influence in probation in Brooklyn.

Correction Commissioner Edward P. Mulrooney, reached at his New York office in the State Building, admitted this morning that the final section of the survey had been completed last December and that an earlier part had been finished some time before that. He has not yet seen the report, nor does he know its contents, the Commissioner said.

Doesn't Know.

Asked if it were true, as reported, that the survey contains "dynamite" about probation in Brooklyn, he answered:—

"I wouldn't be quoted on that because I haven't gone over it yet and I don't know what's in it."
"Why should it take almost a year to prepare the report after the investigation was completed?" he was asked.

"It had to be revised and the errors taken out," he replied.

"If this report were treated alone I might say that is a long time. But we have surveys of some of the other 47 counties that have probation systems and we only have seven investigators."

This document was called recently to Mr. Amen's attention. It covers directly one of the major phases of his inquiry into Kings County justice.

Controls Releases.

The significance of this phase of his inquiry lies in the fact that the Probation Department is the controlling factor in determining what criminals shall be freed without serving jail terms.

For it is the probation report that the judge relies on—or uses to justify his action—in suspending sentence on defendants who have been convicted or have pleaded guilty. And this department decides how much or how little supervision they shall have, once freed.

Meanwhile, Mr. Amen was re-

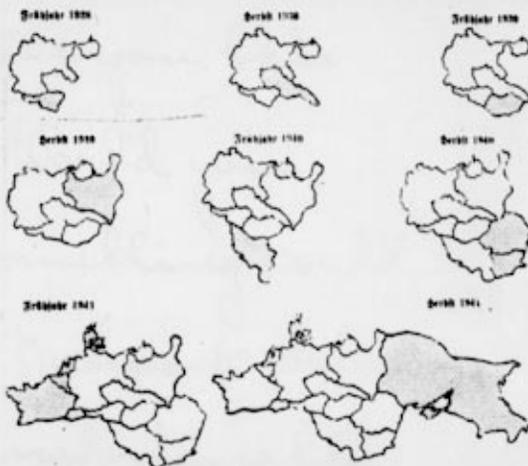
(Continued on Page Twenty-seven.)

Rmhc Kill Child

REICH EXPELLING POLI WARSAW TRIES TO B

Hitler Has It All Mapped Out—
He'll Split Europe with Italy

Ein Volk, ein Reich, ein Führer!



Groß-Deutschland
1938-1948



Deutschland, Deutschland über alles!

The projected march of Germany to joint control of Europe with Italy is shown in the map. The top row shows the expansion program for 1938 to 1939, the first two steps already accomplished and the third, absorption of Hungary, due in 1939. The second row shows Poland being brought in late in 1939 and Yugoslavia, Rumania and Bulgaria in 1940. The third row shows the German plan for a drive east and west in 1941, the year of the Big War, and the large map shows the division of Europe after war, the dark shading showing Germany, the light shading the territory it will dominate, and the white area, Italy and the territory under Italian control.

Big War Starts in 1941, and Seven Years Later
Germany Will Have Spread in Every Direction

Thous
Night
Many

Germany to
throughout the
Poland. Thous
border.

On the heels
that the Reich
order after neg
there.

Poland recei
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deportees relea

This was fo
ment quarters in
by mid-evening.

Warsaw Succeed
in Halting Evictio

By the Associated Press.
WARSAW, Oct. 28.

agreed to cancel its
der which would hav
sands of Polish Jews
der into Poland, the
said today.

The Foreign Office
decision was taken
tion between Germa

The negotiations
through the Germa
Warsaw, the Foreign

Trains to H

The Foreign Office
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would be returned to
origin and that the
portes would be re
homes.

Poland assured Ge
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its Polish citizenship
passport examination
disfranchisement. P
felt that the Germa
"premature."

The Polish Embau
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consulates througho
reported arrests in
districts, including ac

Arrive at P

Hundreds of Poles
had been taken up b
in their places in
the Polish citizen
March arrived at the
from Czechoslovakia
Hungary.

They were taken i
mediately. There w

AMBASSADE DE BELGIQUE
PRÈS LE SAINT SIEGE
ROME

4, VIA G. DE NOTARIS
TEL: 870-277

22. 8 - 1940

My dear Ambassador,

I forgot to give you this letter yesterday. Would you kindly see if something could be done for the Newport church which as been unfortunately destroyed for the second time.

With my kindest regards

and best wishes for a
happy journey

Yours' truly

Pierson

KERKFABRIEK

FABRIQUE D'ÉGLISE

(W. VI.) NIEUPOORT (Fl. Occ.)

BELGIË - BELGIQUE



To the most Excellent Sir Roosevelt
President of the U. S. of America

Nieuport 13th June 1940.

Sir,

By seeing for the second time in twenty-five years our parish church destroyed, our first thought goes to the mighty United States of which you are the highest representation as their President.

Nieuport is a little town, famous by its resistance and the inundations about the stream of Yzer in 1914-18. Its church was a very jewel of architecture of the 14th century and after having been laboriously reconstructed in its ancient style in 1923, the cruel ravages of the European war destroyed it again on May 29th 1940.

Whence will come the money - about 3 million francs - in our little town of 8.500 inhabitants, of which a great part are homeless or ruined? This is the reason of our recourse to your goodness and might.

We hope that your heart will be moved, for the large ruins of what was once a beautiful church beseech for a reconstruction and implore with us your generosity. An eternal remembrance and gratitude will reward your mild deed.

We remain with the profoundest veneration, Sir, your devoted and thankful servants

Robert Coesens
rector of
Notre Dame
Nieuport

President
H. van Sijbe

(M. N°) NIE
L'ABBIONE D.
ΚΕΚΕΑΒΒΙΕ
KERKFABRIEK

NIEUWPOORT
WEST-VLAANDEREN
BELGIE

To his Most Excellency Sir Roosevelt
President of the United States
of America

Will
forward

PSF: Italy

HIGHOVER
NORTH BEVERLY, MASS.

October 2nd /40

Dear Mr. President.

I appreciate more than
I can say your kind letter of
the 24th. You may rest assured
that I have no thoughts of resigning
now, and that I shall carry out
your instructions to the letter and
make a business of getting into
100% physical condition. Already
great progress is being made in
that direction.

I am inclined to think
that the temporary absence of
the American Ambassador from

Rome will not go unnoticed
in Italian circles, and will
serve as a healthy reminder
of your determined policy.

This country is undoubtedly
rallying to your continued
leadership, and it is the
greatest relief to feel that
there will be no break in
your handling of our international
relations.

Curtis joins us in

all your wishes, and
reetings of old friendship.

Devotedly yours.

William Phillips

To the President
The White House.

*file
personal*

study

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 24, 1940.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Please read this correspondence.
What do you think of my sending Bill
Phillips the enclosed letter?

The problem is that if Bill
resigns now or in November or
December, we will have to leave
the Embassy in Rome open because
it cannot be filled unless we
recognize the King of Italy as
Emperor of Ethiopia, etc. There-
fore, I hesitate to have Bill
resign. Can we give him some
light work that will justify his
remaining in this country?

F. D. R.

FDR

*OK
CJ*

PSF: Italy

September 24, 1940.

Dear Bill:-

I know that you have not been well and I have, of course, been greatly concerned on your account more than anything else. It is my thought that you should not go back to Rome now or in the immediate future, but that you should not resign As Ambassador, for the very good reason that we cannot send anybody else there under existing circumstances.

Therefore, I think you should give no worry to the present situation and make up your mind to take a complete holiday and rest. You still have plenty of leave coming to you, and we can always assign you to special duty in the Department when that leave is up -- you retaining the position of Ambassador.

The main point is that you should not worry and that you should get a complete rest. No person can tell the future for more than a few weeks ahead, and there seems nothing on the horizon to make it necessary for you to go back to Rome now or for the next few months.

My love to Caroline and the children,

As ever yours,

Honorable William Phillips,
North Beverly,
Massachusetts.

Good Friday

While I have not yet seen the official report of the Commission on the subject of the proposed amendments to the Constitution, I have had the opportunity to discuss the matter with several of the members of the Commission and with the President and Vice President.

It is my belief that the proposed amendments are of a nature which would be of great benefit to the country and that they should be adopted.

The proposed amendments are of a nature which would be of great benefit to the country and that they should be adopted.

My suggestion would be that the President and Vice President be permitted to serve two terms and that the President be permitted to serve in succession. The President and Vice President should be permitted to serve in succession.

Very truly yours,
John F. Kennedy

John F. Kennedy
President of the United States

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

September 18, 1940

*The President
to read, etc
H.C.*

Personal

Dear Steve:

While I have not had any direct word from Bill Phillips during the last few weeks, Norman Armour, who saw him recently in Maine, tells me that Bill has had bronchial pneumonia and that he is not at all well.

Bill Phillips' idea when he came back from Rome in August was to return to his post in October with the intention of spending a few weeks in Rome and then retiring for good in November.

I do not know whether the President wishes him to return to Rome before he retires, but so far as the Department is concerned, I can see no real reason for his making this effort in view of the condition of his health.

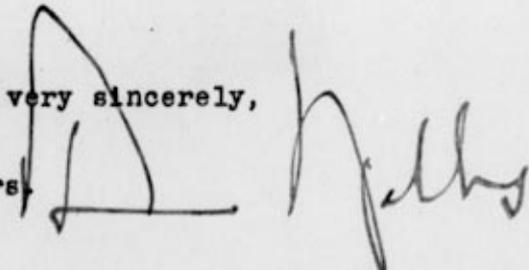
My suggestion would be that the President send him a personal letter and tell him that he understands that he has been seriously ill and that in view of his decision to retire in November, the President sees no reason for him to return to Rome before his resignation becomes effective.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely,

Enc.

From Mrs. Andrew J. Peters



The Honorable
Stephen Early,
Secretary to the President,
The White House.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



9/16/40

MEMORANDUM FOR STEVE

To make a discreet inquiry of
Sumner Welles and then prepare a
letter.

F. D. R.

Dear Sumner:-

9/18/40.
Please give me
guidance re this
inquiry to the President
from Mrs. Peters, Sister of
Ambassador Phillips.

JE

Ambassador Phillips is my
mother.

310 SOUTH STREET

JAMAICA PLAIN, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Mr. Early:

I am again
asking you a great
favor! When time
permits - could you put

the enclosed letter before
the President.

I did the same
thing last January

Miss Elford

2.

310 SOUTH STREET

JAMAICA PLAIN, MASSACHUSETTS

And my son, David, had
a splendid experience, in
consequence.

This letter should
not be answered,

yours truly

Mariantha R. Peters

Mrs Andrew J. Peters.

Sept 7th 1940

310 SOUTH STREET

JAMAICA PLAIN, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Mr President:

This is a wholly
extraordinary thing for
me to do, but I have a
strong conviction that
wether Bill is not up
to going back to Italy.
I know there are strong
diplomatic reasons for
his being sent back,

2,
310 SOUTH STREET

JAMAICA PLAIN, MASSACHUSETTS

but truthfully, I believe
the man is worn out.

Caroline won't do a
thing and I just made
up my mind to write
to you my self. Look
into Bill's eyes the
next time you see him,
I see if you do not see

3

310 SOUTH STREET

JAMAICA PLAIN, MASSACHUSETTS

deep fatigue. He is now
slowly recovering from a
heavy bronchitis & should
not travel for weeks!

My David's summer
was a complete success
owing to your kindness.
He had a splendid experience
in the Forest Service of
The White Mountains.

4
310 SOUTH STREET
JAMAICA PLAIN, MASSACHUSETTS

All success to your election,
Sincerely your friend
Mantua R. Peters
Mrs Andrew J. Peters

Hudon
Sept 6th 1940

This letter should not be
answered.