

● PSF

Vatican: Myron C. Taylor

1939-40

Illustri et Honorabili Viro
Foederatarum Americae Civitatum
Praesidi

Dius MD. XII

Illustris et Honorabilis Vir,
salutem ac prosperitatem.

Quandoquidem nuperime fuimus per Catholicæ
Ecclesiæ Senatus suffragia ad Summum Pontificatum
electi, id Nostrum esse censemus ut Tibi electionis
huius Nostræ nuntium perferamus. Optamusque
imprimis Te certiore facere nulli ex iis studiosæ
benevolentiae officio Nos esse defuturos, quæ Decessor
Nostræ desideratissimus in gentem nobilissimam, cui
praesides, occasione data edere voluit. Pro Tua autem
humanitate eximia, rerumque gerendarum prudentia,
futurum confidimus ut qui in Republica ista

catholicam profitentur fidem, iidem eorumque instituta
justa legis tutela fuisse pergere possint. Eos invenies, &
ut pro certo habemus, modo Religionis suae praeceptis
obtemperent, cum in legitima auctoritate observanda,
tum in patria colenda caritate, nulli prorsus cedere.
Quae Tibi renuntiantes, ac dies illos grato semper recor-
dantes animo, quibus haud ita multo ante apud gentem
istam, Nobis sane carissimam, etsi parumper, commo-
rare datum est, caelestia vobis munera atque auxilia
ab Omnipotenti Deo precamur, idque nominatim ut Te,
Illustris et Honorabilis Vir, perfecta Nobiscum caritate
coniungere benigne velit.

Datum Romae, apud Sanctum Petrum, die
XII mensis Martii, anno MDCCCCXXIX, Pontificatus
Nostri primo. ~

Pius PP. XII

COPY

Memo by M.C.T.

I dictated these reports in Paris and delivered them to Secstate, Ambassador Bullitt. M.C.T.

Paris Mar 11 1939

file
PSF
Myron Taylor
Sten - 2

On Myron Taylor's visit with me before he left for Italy, I suggested that I would be very much interested to learn as much as possible of the Italian situation upon his return and he has now given me the following impressions.

He visited Rome after being in Florence a few days, and talked with friends and acquaintances who represented both the official point of view, the view of the intelligentsia and Capitalistic groups, and also gained an impression of the attitude of the public generally. In official circles there is a well defined feeling that Italy was very badly treated at the conclusion of the peace, and needs expansion to care for its over-populated country with a growing population. Their attitude was not warlike and expressed the view that the demands which had been made of France had gone too far, especially in respect to Nice, Corsica and Tunis. The view of the intelligentsia and Capitalistic groups was one of very great fear that some event might precipitate trouble; that the influence of the United States was very great, and that the record which had been made of her attitude through the statements of the President, the Secretary of State, and others, had been extremely helpful and was welcomed by the Italian people. The public attitude is against war except in respect to a group of younger men limited in number who were carried away with enthusiasm attendant upon prospective action not based on thoughtful analysis or the dangerous consequences to themselves or to their country if their aims were not achieved.

He called at the Vatican to present his compliments to Cardinal Pacelli, whom he saw a number of times in America and whom he had entertained during his visit there, and was received by a member of the Cardinal's entourage, Monsignor Hurley, who indicated very great interest in the American attitude as above expressed, and a fear that some ill advised act might precipitate real trouble and the hope that wherever a word could be spoken that would slow down the action, that it was wise to speak it, especially if it came from America. This same view was expressed by Bishop Hayes, formerly of Pittsburgh, now head of the American Catholic College in Rome. Bishop Hayes had enlarged on the spontaneousness of the reception given Chamberlain on his visit to Rome, and indicated that the Italians had contrasted it with the organized reception given Hitler on his visit.

In Florence he entertained one of the Italian Royal Fam-

ily, the Duke of Spoleto, Admiral in the Italian Navy, nephew of the King, at luncheon. The Duke of Spoleto, who is realistic and more moderate than others in official positions, believed that some adjustment of the present demands can be made, and advised an early conference to bring about a solution. He weighed more deliberately the economic side of these problems and the resultant dangers if war ensued than did many of those with whom Taylor had talked who had political affiliations. Taylor discussed with others in Florence, including the lately returned Italian Ambassador to China, who is very well known to Ambassador Johnson, now in Washington, the feeling of Italians towards Germans generally of one of hatred. He was informed that in certain public offices in Rome itself German officers are now cooperating with Italian officials and this applies particularly with respect to refugee matters. It was stated to him that a number of German officers have been transported to Libya and are now there, and also that there are German officers on the Italian front back of Ventimiglia where great military preparations have been under way.

On a personal matter, the medical advisor of both Goering and Hitler came to his villa in Florence accompanied by a mutual friend. He indicated that he was enroute to Monte Carlo and found that the doctor was enroute to San Remo to join Goering who arrived there on Sunday. He invited the doctor to motor to Monte Carlo for luncheon. He came on Tuesday. The doctor advised him that Goering had that day gone to Milan to meet Mussolini and would return on Sunday and would be glad to see Taylor some time the following week, if he cared to call. Taylor indicated that it was necessary for him to return to Paris and London and sail on the 18th of March for the United States. The doctor also advised Taylor that Goering, at the end of the following week, was going to Libya, and that he, the doctor, was going with him. He indicated that the health of both of these leaders (Goering and Hitler) was excellent and that the many rumors about the health of Hitler are without foundation.

The doctor indicated that Goering's interview with Mussolini in Milan was intended to moderate the situation.

COPY

Paris Mar 11 1939

The Intergovernmental meeting concluded its sessions on February 13 1939. Thereafter I brought to the attention of the Jewish societies and to a group of leaders, including Anthony Rothschild, Lord Bearstead and others, the importance of promptly acting, first, on the suggestion of the third trustee for the internal German Trust, and second, the formation of a plan to create an outside corporation or foundation to carry out in both instances the terms of the German unilateral proposals first proposed by Schacht, later modified by Wohlthat. I believe it best for many reasons to characterize as German proposals the memorandum which, while it contains many of the points that the committee had evolved at and since Evian, is not, of course, an Inter-Governmental Committee proposal. Embarrassment might ultimately flow from it if it were so styled.

On arrival in Paris on February 16th, I conferred with Ambassador Bullitt and gave him in detail all events and memoranda affecting refugees, so that he would be able intelligently to discuss the matter when and as occasion required. I then left for Florence.

From Florence I telephoned Ambassador Phillips that I would come to Rome Thursday, February 23d, to discuss the refugee situation with him, and suggested that if he thought well of it, it might be advisable first to visit Mussolini together and to acquaint him with preliminaries of the present German situation, and, if the opportunity occurred, to express to him the hope that in view of the progress made with Germany, he might find it possible to postpone the date of exodus in Italy from March 12th for a period of six months or a year, giving those affected a better opportunity to locate elsewhere and the avoiding of a revival of a general world discussion on the subject, with its possible injurious effect on the German refugee situation, which, in its present early stages under the memorandum, might be seriously impaired if the subject were renewed in a world-wide sense.

For his further information, I submitted to him, first, a copy of Sir Andrew MacFadden's report on the Italian situation; second, a copy of a memorandum which had been prepared by the Jewish leaders in London and Paris; third, a copy of Sir Herbert Emerson's memorandum regarding settlement projects; and fourth, minutes of the Inter-Governmental Committee which contained the German memorandum, of which memorandum he kept a copy. This will be helpful to him in the discussions which may take place with Italian officials.

Mussolini was not in Rome when I was there, but was understood to be in the Italian Alps on vacation. Ciano left Rome about the time I arrived. The Ambassador had inquired if I should be received by Mussolini a week later when he returned. The answer was, I believe, that it was not then convenient. My Italian friends in London and Paris had suggested contact with Mussolini and not Ciano, who was reported as violently anti-Jewish and not fully friendly toward America. I suggested to the Ambassador that I should not create an issue over the question of a visit to Mussolini.

I returned to Florence the following day, February 24th. The Ambassador to Rome, has, I believe, asked your instructions whether he should proceed through the usual channel, Ciano, to discuss the subject along the lines indicated. I am not aware of your reply.

I left Florence for Monte Carlo on Saturday last, to visit a few friends who were there ill. It is likely that Mr. Bullitt will in another telegram recite other incidents which may be of interest.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 16, 1939

My dear Mr. President:

Father Carroll, the Assistant to Monsignor Ready who is at the moment out of Washington, called to see me this morning at the request of the Apostolic Delegate. The Delegate had yesterday received a telegram from the Papal Secretary with a request that its contents be communicated to this Government.

The message was as follows:

The Pope desired you to know that because of his belief that the peace of Europe was gravely endangered, he had on May 3 approached the governments of Great Britain, France, Poland, Germany, and Italy and had inquired of them whether they believed the peace of Europe to be in imminent danger, and second, whether those governments believed a peace conference to be attended by the representatives of the five powers mentioned to settle outstanding problems would be feasible. The Vatican had been informed as a result of the approaches made that none of the five governments believed the

The President,

The White House.

*file
confidential*

*PSF Vatican
Taylor*

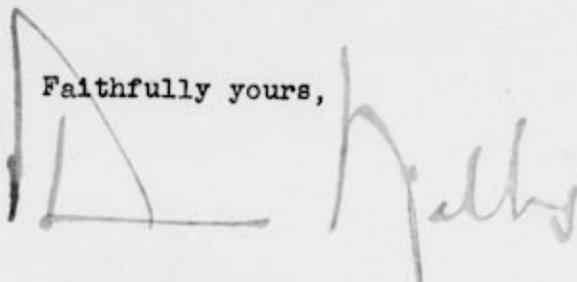
situation to be precarious and that the general impression was that a conference of the type proposed would not at that time be expedient.

In conclusion, the Apostolic Delegate was instructed to let you know that if later on such a conference appeared to be expedient, the Pope would communicate with you before any final steps were taken.

I asked Father Carroll to tell the Delegate that I deeply appreciated the message received and that I would immediately communicate its contents to you.

Believe me,

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "A. Kelly", written over the typed phrase "Faithfully yours,".

PSF Vatican
Taylor
7

file
pres mail

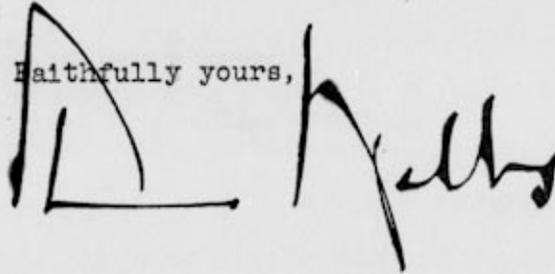
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

August 2, 1939

My dear Mr. President:

I enclose a copy of a long letter from Representative Celler urging the establishment by this Government of diplomatic relations with the Holy See. I have acknowledged the receipt of this letter but did not indicate that I was sending you a copy.

Faithfully yours,



Enclosure:

Copy of letter from
Representative Celler.

The President,
The White House.

(COPY EU:CMS)
(COMP. WLD)

PSF Vatican
Taylor

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 24, 1939.

Hon. Cordell Hull,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

At the Coronation Ceremonies of Pope Pius XII, there was present as a representative of President Roosevelt, our present Ambassador to England, the Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy's presence served to emphasize the very friendly relations that have always existed between our Government and the Papal See.

An examination of the records will reveal that diplomatic relations with the Holy See were first established on December 15, 1784, when the Papal Nuncio at Paris wrote to the American Commissioners that his Government had agreed to open the ports of Civita Vecchia on the Mediterranean, and Ancona on the Adriatic, to American vessels.

On June 26, 1797, John Baptist Sartori of Rome was commissioned as the first Consul to represent the United States in the Papal Dominions.

The diplomatic relations thus established between our country and the Papal States were maintained for nearly
three

three quarters of a century in a spirit of mutual friendship and respect.

In 1867, the American mission to Rome came to an official end, but through no fault or action of the Holy See. Congress simply refused to continue the appropriation for the American mission. There was question as to whether or not the then Pope Pius had recognized the Confederacy. Congress had merely refused to continue the necessary appropriation, so that as Secretary of State Seward stated, "Legally, the action of Congress left the mission still existing, but without compensation."

In my opinion, the action of our Government was somewhat hasty and ill-advised, and was an ungenerous return for the good-will the Papal See had always manifested towards our Government and our people. I believe the time has now come when these diplomatic relations, thus groundlessly severed, should be restored. That restoration would be a clarion call to the civilized peoples of the world that religious and personal liberties are inherent in our Democracy. In this connection, I quote the interesting language used by Mr. Chief Justice Fuller in the opinion on the Municipality of Ponce v. Roman Catholic Apostolic Church in Porto Rico, decided June 1, 1908:

"The

"The corporate existence of the Roman Catholic Church, as well as the position occupied by the papacy, has always been recognized by the Government of the United States.

"At one time the United States maintained diplomatic relations with the Papal States, which continued up to the time of the loss of the temporal power of the papacy. (Moore's Digest of Int. Law, vol. 1, pp.130, 131)

"The Holy See still occupies a recognized position in international law, of which the courts must take judicial notice.

"The Pope, though deprived of the territorial dominion which he formerly enjoyed, holds, as sovereign pontiff and head of the Roman Catholic Church, an exceptional position. Though, in default of territory, he is not a temporal sovereign, he is in many respects treated as such. He has the right of active and passive legation, and his envoys of the first class, his apostolic nuncios, are specially privileged ...'" (1 Moore's Dig. 39)

Furthermore, practically all countries send their diplomatic representatives to the Court of the Supreme Pontiff and diplomatic representatives of the Holy See are received with the respect and consideration customarily accorded to diplomatic agents.

A representative of our country residing at the Holy See would do much to bring to the fore the fact that in our country we respect to the full the rights of religious freedom, as we do also those accompanying precious rights of freedom of the press, freedom of speech and freedom of assemblage.

A reinstatement of relations with the Holy See would dramatically serve to recall to the world that intolerance and religious hatred and bigotry cannot flourish here. It would enkindle in our own hearts sympathy for the thousands of unfortunates who have been castigated, tortured and ruined because of a dictator's insane hate and venom.

Events abroad indicate in no uncertain terms the great stake which religion must play in the preservation of democracy against the savage and merciless inroads of Fascism, Nazism and Communism. These ideologies exclude the virtues of Christianity - faith, hope and charity, benevolence and brotherly love - those virtues which are the very basis of our moral code.

The unbroken tradition of the Holy See with respect to international peace has been worthily continued to the present by the lamented Supreme Pontiff Pius XI, who, in his allocution on peace in 1930, condemned in strongest terms "hard and selfish nationalism" and to the hour of his death courageously stood firm against every policy that threatened peace by undermining the principles of justice and charity in relations among nations. The present Supreme Pontiff Pius XII, in the brief space that has elapsed since his elevation to the highest office in the Catholic Church, already has given eloquent evidence
of

of his purpose to labor for peace among nations based on justice and charity.

History discloses that democracies value the church and religion; that dictatorships ridicule the church and despise religion. Democracies protect the church, dictatorships destroy it. Thus, our Democracy has always set a high value on religion and on the church.

The Papacy has always placed a high value on justice and charity in relations among men and among nations. The first Popes, for example, said nothing about anti-semitism since they themselves, like their Master Christ, were Jews and subject to all the injustices heaped upon Jews. As early as the sixth century - in the year 538 - Pope Gregory the Great wrote: "We forbid you to molest the Jews or to lay upon them restrictions not imposed by the established laws; we further permit them to live as Romans and to dispose of their property as they will."

Heinrich Graetz, Jewish Historian and author of a monumental work, "History of the Jews", writes: "It is remarkable that the Bishops of Rome, the recognized champions of Christianity, treated the Jews with the utmost toleration and liberality. The occupants of the Papal throne shielded the Jews and exhorted the clergy and the princes against the use of force in converting them to Christianity."

Pope

Pope Pius XI declared on July 30, 1938, referring to the unscientific racial theories of Naziism: "It is forgotten that humankind, the whole of humankind, is a single, great universal human race. All men are, above all, members of the same great kind. They all belong to the single great family of the living. Humankind is, therefore, a single universal race."

Nazi terror directed the storming of the homes of Cardinals Innitzer and Faulhaber. The Catholic priesthood is held up to ridicule and scorn and shame. Hundreds of Protestant Clergymen of the Confessional Church have been arrested, and Pastor Niemoeller still languishes in a Nazi cell!

I believe the nation generally would welcome your courage and understanding in this matter of re-establishing diplomatic relations with the Holy See. A pronouncement to this effect would scatter the termites of bigotry and rodents of irreligion the world over.

No sincere citizen of the United States, familiar with the history of his country and its relations with the Holy See, can reasonably object to the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the government of the United States and the Holy See.

Lastly, there has ascended to the Papal Throne, Pope

Pius

Pius XII, a religious man of great erudition, wisdom and tolerance. As Anne O'Hara McCormick of the New York Times has written: "He is a spiritual plenipotentiary of great influence, though he has none but moral weapons to impress a world at arms."

For several months, Pope Pius XII has been endeavoring to bring peace to a war-threatened world. He has given instructions to his Papal Nuncios who are accredited to the various capitals of the world to invite the interested governments to consider peacefully and in true religious amity and accord, solutions of the grave issues, confronting the various nations, which are disturbing the world. Let us help him in his glorious mission of Peace by sending our delegate to him.

Pope Pius XII has expressed great admiration and affection for the people of the United States. He has extended his hand of fellowship to us. We should grasp it. We should re-establish diplomatic relations with the Holy See.

With assurances of high esteem, I am

Cordially yours,

EMANUEL CELLER

PSF: Vatica
Taylor

Published in

Foreign Relations of the United States

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

page 869.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

File Italy

August 6, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE

Will you speak to me
about this?

F. D. R.

Letter from Undersecretary Welles
to the President, dated August 1,
enclosing copy of letter from
Ambassador Phillips to Secretary
Welles in re advantage which might
be gained by this Government if
we had direct diplomatic relations
with the Vatican.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

August 1, 1939

My dear Mr. President:

Some weeks ago the Secretary and I were speaking of the advantage which might be gained by this Government if we had direct diplomatic relations with the Vatican. I think it is unquestionable that the Vatican has many sources of information, particularly with regard to what is actually going on in Germany, Italy, and Spain, which we do not possess, and it seemed to us that the question of whether it would be desirable for our Government to obtain access to this information was of considerable importance.

At Mr. Hull's suggestion I wrote a personal letter to Bill Phillips asking his opinion. I have this morning received Bill's reply under date of July 19 and I am sending you a copy of his letter for your information.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

W. H. Phillips

Enclosure:

From Ambassador Phillips,
July 19, 1939.

The President,
The White House.

8-1-39

PS - Vatican
Taylor

October 20 1989

My dear Mr. President:

I enclose a copy of a cablegram which was received on October 10 by the Apostolic Delegate in Washington from the Secretariate of State of the Holy See, a copy of which was left with an officer of the Department by Monsignor Ready, in regard to information received by the Secretariate of State from an unnamed source that Chinese officials "desire the Holy See to take steps to establish peace between China and Japan". I enclose also a memorandum of October 12 in analysis of the message from the Secretariate of State and in comment upon the general question of possible mediation on the part of this Government between Japan and China. I am in general agreement with the statements and the conclusions expressed in the memorandum, which I venture to hope you will find time to read.

By

The President,
The White House.

By way of acknowledgment of the copy of the cablegram to the Apostolic Delegate which was left with us, I propose, subject to your approval, to ask Monsignor Ready to call and to inform him that the spirit which prompted the Secretariate of State of the Holy See to bring to the attention of this Government the information contained in the Secretariate of State's cablegram is very much appreciated; that the communication has been brought to your attention; and that it is our constant desire to make such contribution as may seem appropriate and be practicable toward the cause of peace among nations.

Faithfully yours,

Cordell Hull

Enclosures:

1. Cablegram from the Secretariate of State.
2. Memorandum of October 12.

Proposed statement by Archbishop Spellman, Dec. 24, 1939

PSF: Vatican: Ta

As an American, living, working and willing to die for the welfare of my country and my countrymen, all of them, I am very happy that President Roosevelt has harmonized the voice of Pope Pius XII with his own clarion call for peace among nations and peoples.

It is opportune that, on the vigil of the anniversary of the birth of the Prince of Peace, the President of the United States, should take this action for peace. President Roosevelt is our leader, the leader of a free people determined on peace for ourselves, desirous of peace for others. We are a people who believe in, who practice and defend freedom of religion, freedom in the dissemination of truth, freedom of assembly, freedom of trade. It is timely that our President, intrepid enunciator of these principles and champion of them, should join with other forces for peace, for charitable and humanitarian influences. Such an influence is the Catholic Church. As an American, I rejoice in this action of President Roosevelt.

State Dept. copy

1-7-40

Published in

Foreign Relations of the United States.

1940 Vol. I General

pages 123-125

RLJ 11/6/59

The President had the original.
of this letter framed. It was
written in script and signed
by the Pope.

*Letter
Personal
copy*

*PSI
Vatican 1-7-40
Taylor*

To His Excellency
FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT
President of the United States of America

PIUS P P. XII

Most Excellent Sir:
Health and Prosperity.

The memorable message that Your Excellency was pleased to have forwarded to Us on the eve of the Holy Feast of Christmas has brightened with a ray of consolation, of hope and confidence, the suffering, the heart-rending fear and the bitterness of the peoples caught up in the vortex of war. For this all right-minded men have paid you the spontaneous tribute of their sincere gratitude.

We have been deeply moved by the noble thought contained in your note, in which the spirit of Christmas and the desire to see it applied to the great human problems have found such eloquent expression; and fully persuaded of its extraordinary importance We lost no time in communicating it to the distinguished gathering present that very morning in the Consistorial Hall of this Apostolic Vatican Palace, solemnly expressing before the world, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, Our appreciation of this courageous document, inspired by a far-seeing statesmanship and a profound human sympathy.

We have been particularly impressed by one characteristic feature of Your Excellency's message: the vital, spiritual contact with the thoughts and feelings, the hopes and the aspirations of the masses of the people, of those classes, namely, on whom more than others, and in a measure never felt before, weighs the burden of sorrow and sacrifice imposed by the present restless and tempestuous hour. Also for this reason, none perhaps better than We can understand the meaning, the revealing power and the warmth of feeling manifest in this act of Your Excellency. In fact Our own daily experience tells Us of the deep-seated yearning for peace that fills the hearts of the common people. In the measure that the war with its direct and indirect repercussions spreads; and the more economic, social and family life is forcibly wrenched from its normal bases by the continuation of the war, and is forced along the way of sacrifice and every kind of privation, the bitter need of which is not always plain to all; so much the more intense is the longing for peace that pervades the hearts of men and their determination to find and to apply the means that lead to peace.

When that day dawns - and We would like to hope that it is not too far distant - on which the roar of battle will lapse into silence and there will arise the possibility of establishing a true and sound peace dictated by the principles of justice and equity, only he will be able to discern the path that should be followed who unites with high political power a clear understanding of the voice of humanity along with a sincere reverence for the divine precepts of life as found in the Gospel of Christ. Only men of such moral stature will be able to create the peace, that will compensate for the incalculable

sacrifices of this war and clear the way for a comity of nations, fair to all, efficacious and sustained by mutual confidence.

We are fully aware of how stubborn the obstacles are that stand in the way of attaining this goal, and how they become daily more difficult to surmount. And if the friends of peace do not wish their labors to be in vain, they should visualize distinctly the seriousness of these obstacles, and the consequently slight probability of immediate success so long as the present state of the opposing forces remains essentially unchanged.

As Vicar on earth of the Prince of Peace, from the first days of Our Pontificate We have dedicated Our efforts and Our solicitude to the purpose of maintaining peace, and afterwards of reestablishing it. Heedless of momentary lack of success and of the difficulties involved, We are continuing to follow along the path marked out for Us by Our Apostolic mission. As We walk this path, often rough and thorny, the echo which reaches Us from countless souls, both within and outside the Church, together with the consciousness of duty done, is for Us abundant and consoling reward.

And now that in this hour of world-wide pain and misgiving the Chief Magistrate of the great North American Federation, under the spell of the Holy Night of Christmas, should have taken such a prominent place in the vanguard of those who would promote peace and generously succor the victims of the war, bespeaks a providential help, which We acknowledge with grateful joy and increased confidence. It is an exemplary act of fraternal and hearty solidarity between the New and the Old World in defence against the chilling breath of aggressive and deadly godless and anti-christian tendencies, that threaten to dry up the fountainhead,

whence civilization has come and drawn its strength.

In such circumstances We shall find a special satisfaction, as We have already informed Your Excellency, in receiving with all the honor due to his well-known qualifications and to the dignity of his important mission, the representative who is to be sent to Us as the faithful interpreter of your mind regarding the procuring of peace and the alleviation of sufferings consequent upon the war.

Recalling with keen joy the pleasant memories left Us after Our unforgettable visit to your great nation, and living over again the sincere pleasure that personal acquaintance with Your Excellency brought Us, We express in turn Our hearty good wishes, with a most fervent prayer for the prosperity of Your Excellency and of all the people of the United States.

Given at Rome, at St. Peter's, the 7th day of January 1940, the first Year of Our Pontificate.

P I U S . P P . X I I

Jan 1, 1874

To His Excellency
Franklin Delano Roosevelt
President of the United States of America

State Dept. Copy

Published in

Foreign Relations of the United States,

1940 Vol. I General

pages 123-125.

RLJ 11-6-59

To His Excellency,
Franklin Delano Roosevelt
President of the United States of America

Pius P.P. XII

Most Excellent Sir:
Health and Prosperity.

The memorable message that Your Excellency was pleased to have forwarded to Us on the eve of the Holy Feast of Christmas has brightened with a ray of consolation, of hope and confidence, the suffering, the heart-rending fear and the bitterness of the peoples caught up in the vortex of war. For this all right-minded men have paid you the spontaneous tribute of their sincere gratitude.

We have been deeply moved by the noble thought contained in your note, in which the spirit of Christmas and the desire to see it applied to the great human problems have found such eloquent expression; and fully persuaded of its extraordinary importance We lost no time in communicating it to the distinguished gathering present that very morning in the Consistorial Hall of this Apostolic Vatican Palace, solemnly expressing before the world, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, Our appreciation of this courageous document, inspired by a far-seeing statesmanship and a profound human sympathy.

We have been particularly impressed by one characteristic feature of Your Excellency's message: the vital, spiritual contact with the thoughts and the feelings, the hopes and the aspirations of the masses of the people of those classes, namely, on whom more than others, and in a measure never-felt before, weighs the burden of sorrow and sacrifice imposed by the present politics and temptations hour. Also for this reason, none perhaps better than we can understand the meaning, the revealing power and the warmth of feeling manifest in this act of Your Excellency. In fact our own daily experience tells us of the deep-seated yearning for peace that fills the hearts of the common people. In the measure that the war with its direct and indirect repercussions spreads; and the more economic, social and family life is forcibly wrenched from its normal bases by the continuation of the war, and is forced along the way of sacrifice and every kind of privation, the bitter mood of which is not always plain to all; so much the more intense is the longing for peace that pervades the hearts of men and their determination to find and to apply the means that lead to peace.

When that day dawns - and we would like to hope that it is not too far distant - on which the roar of battle will lapse into silence and there will arise the possibility of establishing a true and sound peace dictated by the principles of justice and equity, only he will be able to discern the path that should be followed who unites with high political power a clear understanding of the voice of humanity along with a sincere reverence for the divine precepts of life as found in the Gospel of Christ. Only men of such moral stature will be able to

create the peace, that will compensate for the incalculable sacrifices of this war and clear the way for a comity of nations, fair to all, efficacious and sustained by mutual confidence.

We are fully aware of how stubborn the obstacles are that stand in the way of attaining this goal, and how they become daily more difficult to surmount. And if the friends of peace do not wish their labors to be in vain, they should visualize distinctly the seriousness of these obstacles, and the consequently slight probability of immediate success so long as the present state of the opposing forces remains essentially unchanged.

As Vicar on earth of the Prince of Peace, from the first days of Our Pontificate We have dedicated Our efforts and Our solicitude to the purpose of maintaining peace, and afterwards of reestablishing it. Heedless of momentary lack of success and of the difficulties involved, We are continuing to follow along the path marked out for Us by Our Apostolic mission. As We walk this path, often rough and thorny, the echo which reaches Us from countless souls, both within and outside the Church, together with the consciousness of duty done, is for Us abundant and consoling reward.

And now that in this hour of world-wide pain and misgiving the Chief Magistrate of the great North American Federation, under the spell of the Holy Night of Christmas, should have taken such a prominent place in the vanguard of those who would promote peace and generously succor the victims of the war, bespeaks a providential help, which We acknowledge with grateful joy and increased confidence.

It is an exemplary act of fraternal and hearty solidarity

between the New and the Old World in defence against the chilling breath of aggressive and deadly godless and anti-christian tendencies, that threaten to dry up the fountainhead, whence civilization has come and drawn its strength.

In such circumstances We shall find a special satisfaction, as We have already informed Your Excellency, in receiving with all the honor due to his well-known qualifications and to the dignity of his important mission, the representative who is to be sent to Us as the faithful interpreter of your mind regarding the procuring of peace and the alleviation of sufferings consequent upon the war.

Recalling with keen joy the pleasant memories left Us after Our unforgettable visit to your great nation, and living over again the sincere pleasure that personal acquaintance with Your Excellency brought Us, We express in turn Our hearty good Wishes, with a most fervent prayer for the prosperity of Your Excellency and of all the people of the United States.

Given at Rome, at St. Peter's, the 7th day of January 1910, the first Year of Our Pontificate.

Pius P.P. XII

PSF Vatican
Taylor

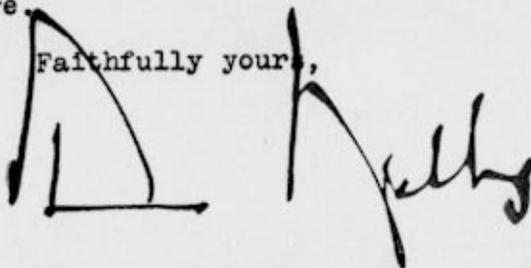
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 1, 1940

My dear Mr. President:

When Mr. Myron Taylor was here he reminded the Department that he had received no written letter of appointment from you and therefore I am enclosing a possible draft of such a letter for your signature if you approve.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. A. Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "A".

Enclosure:

To Mr. Myron Taylor.

The President,

The White House.

February 1 1940

My dear Mr. President:

When Mr. Myron Taylor was here he reminded the Department that he had received no written letter of appointment from you and therefore I am enclosing a possible draft of such a letter for your signature if you approve.

Faithfully yours,

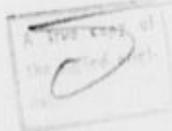
Sumner Welles

Enclosure:

To Mr. Myron Taylor.

The President,
The White House.

Eu:SR:LG 1-30-40



Not sent

My dear Mr. Taylor:

Reposing special faith and confidence in you I am asking you to proceed at your early convenience to Italy, there to act as my personal representative to His Holiness, Pope Pius XII. My purpose in entrusting you with this mission was set forth in my letter of December 23, 1939 to the Pope, a copy of which is enclosed. I am also asking you personally to convey a further communication to His Holiness.

I may from time to time request you to serve as the channel of communication for any views I may wish to exchange with the Pope. You will, of course, communicate to this Government any matters which may come to your attention in the performance of your mission which you may feel will serve the best interest of the United States.

With all best wishes for the success of your mission, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Enclosure:
As stated.

The Honorable
Myron C. Taylor,
71 Broadway,
New York, New York.

My dear Mr. Taylor:

Reposing special faith and confidence in you I am asking you to proceed at your early convenience to Italy, there to act as my personal representative to His Holiness, Pope Pius XII. My purpose in entrusting you with this mission was set forth in my letter of December 23, 1939 to the Pope, a copy of which is enclosed. I am also asking you personally to convey a further communication to His Holiness.

with the rank of Ambassador

I may from time to time request you to serve as the channel of communication for any views I may wish to exchange with the Pope. You will, of course, communicate to this Government any matters which may come to your attention in the performance of your mission which you may feel will serve the best interest of the United States.

With all best wishes for the success of your mission, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Enclosure:
As stated.

The Honorable
Myron C. Taylor,
71 Broadway,
New York, New York.

Eu:SR:LG 1-30-40

A-M

A-B

U

Department of State copy published in

Foreign Relations of the United States

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

pages 873-874

PSP Vahian
Taylor

Sent -
Date 4/19/40 -

My dear Mr. Taylor:

Reposing special faith and confidence in you I am asking you to proceed at your early convenience to Italy, there to act as my personal representative, with the rank of ambassador, to His Holiness, Pope Pius XII. My purpose in entrusting you with this mission was set forth in my letter of December 23, 1939 to the Pope, a copy of which is enclosed. I am also asking you personally to convey a further communication to His Holiness.

I may from time to time request you to serve as the channel of communication for any views I may wish to exchange with the Pope. You will, of course, communicate to this Government any matters which may come to your attention in the performance of your mission which you may feel will serve the best interest of the United States.

With all best wishes for the success of your mission, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Enclosure:
As stated.

The Honorable
Myron C. Taylor,
71 Broadway,
New York, New York.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF PROTOCOL

SW

I called Havens in FA to see who drafted the letter. FA knows nothing about it.

I then called Mr. Berle who stated he had handled most of this matter but did not draft the letter. He said he would call Gen. Watson. I told him that I would ask you to get the letter so it can be changed.

MS
Spruks.

THE WHITE HOUSE

The Honorable
Myron C. Taylor,
71 Broadway,
New York, New York.

DELIVERED

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Not sent -
See attached letter
to Taylor of
Feb 4-1946
which was
sent.*

My dear Mr. Taylor:

Reposing special faith and confidence in you I am asking you to proceed at your early convenience to Italy, there to act as my personal representative to His Holiness, Pope Pius XII. My purpose in entrusting you with this mission was set forth in my letter of December 23, 1939 to the Pope, a copy of which is enclosed. I am also asking you personally to convey a further communication to His Holiness.

I may from time to time request you to serve as the channel of communication for any views I may wish to exchange with the Pope. You will, of course, communicate to this Government any matters which may come to your attention in the performance of your mission which you may feel will serve the best interest of the United States.

With all best wishes for the success of your mission, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Enclosure:
As stated.

The Honorable
Myron C. Taylor,
71 Broadway,
New York, New York.

Sunday

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF PROTOCOL

February 10, 1940.

General Watson:

In the original draft of this letter to Mr. Myron C. Taylor, the words "with the rank of ambassador" did not appear. At Mr. Taylor's request they have been inserted in a new draft, and if the President will sign it, I shall see that Mr. Taylor gets it before he sails. The drafts are otherwise identical.

Stanley Woodward

Stanley Woodward,
Acting Chief of Protocol.

SW:

I left this memo at
Mr. Welles' office. Miss
Clarkson gave it back to
me saying with regard to
the last paragraph that
Mr. Welles had said
"by all means."

S.R.

Vatican

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

February 9, 1940.

U

Mr. Myron Taylor telephoned this morning to say that the President had showed him yesterday the letter of appointment which was to be signed by the President and sent to Mr. Taylor. Mr. Taylor said that the letter made no mention of his status as Ambassador. He attached considerable importance to the mention of this, and hoped that it could be inserted.

The letter is now in the hands of the President. Would you authorize the Protocol Division to communicate Mr. Taylor's wishes to the White House.

EU: ~~SR~~:AMW

DA/D
8

State Dept. copy

Published in

Foreign Relations of the United States

1940, Vol. I, General

page 125

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE SECRETARY

February 7, 1940

Draft of letter for the President to write to the Pope in longhand for delivery by Mr. Myron Taylor.

COPY OF LONGHAND LETTER

PSF
Vatican
Taylor

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Feb. 14th
1940

Your Holiness:-

In my letter of December 23, 1939 I had the honor to suggest that it would give me great satisfaction to send to you my own representative in order that our parallel endeavors for peace and the alleviation of suffering might be assisted. Your Holiness was good enough to reply that the choice of Mr. Myron C. Taylor as my representative was acceptable and that you would receive him.

I am entrusting this special mission to Mr. Taylor who is a very old friend of mine, and in whom I repose the utmost confidence.

His humanitarian efforts in behalf of those whom political disruption has rendered homeless are well known to Your Holiness. I shall be happy to feel that he may be the channel of communication for any views you and I may wish to exchange in the interest of concord among the peoples of the world.

I am asking Mr. Taylor to convey my cordial greetings to you, my old and good Friend, and my sincere hope that the common ideals of religion and of humanity itself can have united expression for the reestablishment of a more permanent peace on the foundations of freedom, and an assurance of life and integrity of all nations under God.

Cordially your friend,

(Signed) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Your Holiness:

In my letter of December 23, 1939 I had the honor to suggest to Your Holiness that it would give me great satisfaction to send to You my own representative in order that our parallel endeavors for peace and the alleviation of suffering might be assisted. Your Holiness was good enough to reply that the choice of the Honorable Myron C. Taylor as my representative was acceptable and that You would receive him.

I am entrusting this special mission to Mr. Taylor, in whom I repose the utmost confidence. His humanitarian efforts on behalf of those whom political disruption have rendered homeless are doubtless already known to Your Holiness. I shall be happy to feel that my representative may be the channel of communication for any views we may wish to exchange in the interest of the restoration of concord among the peoples of the world.

I am asking Mr. Taylor to convey my cordial greetings and my sincere hope that the common ideals of humanity and of religion can have united expression for the reestablishment of peace upon the foundations of freedom and assurances of life and independence for all nations.

Cordially yours,

file
DESPATCH

2-27-40

Norfolk Navy Yard-7-6-39-62,000 (Sets of 7)

Vatican Taylor

U. S. S. TUSCALOOSA

PRESIDENT

~~CAPTAIN~~

HEADING: P1A V NAA NR13 Z ROVE DIAL 272210 P1A BLACK 64 GR 48 BT..

FOLLOWING FROM MYRON TAYLOR IN ROME ITALY QUOTE PRESENTATION CEREMONIES CONCLUDED WITH HIGHEST SPIRITUAL DIGNITY AND HUMAN UNDERSTANDING STOP HIS HOLINESS CONVEYS THROUGH ME HIS BLESSING AND WARMEST REGARDS TO YOU PERSONALLY STOP HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL SECRETARY OF STATE JOINS IN GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES STOP BEST REGARDS

R S V 2232 JD 42358

SUPV

CO DATE 27FEB40

FROM: PRESIDENT'S EXEC OFFICE.

XXX
PRIORITY

ROUTINE

NITE

RELEASE

TO: PRESIDENT

INFO:

★ADMIRAL.....FLAG LIEUT.....
★FLAG SEC.....FLAG RADIO.....
DUTY OFF.....AVIATION.....

Captain★	Executive★	D.A.M. Cont.	Navigator	Engineer	Gunnery	Aviation	Marine	Commun.★	Radio	Signals	Mail Ord.	Supply	Medical	Chaplain	H. D. Duty	O. O. D.	Ath. Off.	Sh. Ser.
----------	------------	--------------	-----------	----------	---------	----------	--------	----------	-------	---------	-----------	--------	---------	----------	------------	----------	-----------	----------

★Receives copies all messages

"X" for Information

"A" for Action

Vatican:
Taylor

Letter from George T. Summerlin

April 5, 1940

Encloses despatch from Myron Taylor transmitting a copy of a letter from Cardinal Maglione and gift of two copies of Annuario Pontificio--parchment bound copy for the President and the other one for Secretary of State.

My Taylor was requested to convey to the Cardinal an appropriate expression of the President's appreciation for the gift.

The following letters were attached to the book and sent to the White House:

Letter to Sec of State from Myron Taylor--March 8, 1940 re Annuario Pontificio(Pontifical Year Book) which was forwarded by the Cardinal to Taylor together with his letter dated Feb 29, 1940.

The Pope's letter of March 16, 1940
which was handed to the President
by Sumner Welles is attached.

[See also 22 to FDR, 3/16/40 published in
Foreign Relations... 1940, Vol. I, General, pp 117-118]



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

April 6, 1940

My dear Mr. President:

With reference to your memorandum of April 1, 1940 concerning publication of the Pope's letter, it has been decided after due consideration of all aspects not to publish the letter unless you should wish otherwise. Mr. Taylor has been so informed.

The original of the letter is returned herewith.

Faithfully yours,

Enclosure:

From Pope Pius XII,
March 16, 1940.

The President,
The White House.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 1, 1940.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

Myron Taylor has asked if the Pope's letter is to be given out here so that it can be given out in Rome at the same time. Will you make the decision and does the letter need a reply?

F. D. R.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 30, 1940.

My dear Mr. President:

I enclose a copy of a telegram received from Mr. Myron Taylor in Rome in regard to the publication of the Pope's letter which I handed to you this morning. It seems apparent that the Vatican desires to give publicity to this communication which could here be done by having copies handed to the press by Mr. Early.

If you approve, a delay of thirty-six hours would seem desirable in order that the Vatican might be informed in sufficient time to make arrangements for simultaneous publication.

Faithfully yours,

Enclosure:

From Rome,
March 29, 1940.

The President,

The White House.

[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten initials]
[Handwritten initials]

March 30 1940

My dear Mr. President:

I enclose a copy of a telegram received from Mr. Myron Taylor in Rome in regard to the publication of the Pope's letter which I handed to you this morning. It seems apparent that the Vatican desires to give publicity to this communication which could here be done by having copies handed to the press by Mr. Early.

If you approve, a delay of thirty-six hours would seem desirable in order that the Vatican might be informed in sufficient time to make arrangements for simultaneous publication.

Faithfully yours,

Sumner Welles

Enclosure:

From Rome,
March 29, 1940.

The President,
The White House.

Eu:SR:LG 3-29-40

Vatican 3-16-40
Taylor

To His Excellency

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

President of the United States of America

To His Excellency
Franklin Delano Roosevelt
President of the United States of America

Plus *Plus* *Plus* *All*

Most Excellent Sir:
Health and Prosperity.

The pleasure which was Ours on the twenty seventh day of February as We received in Solemn Audience the Representative of Your Excellency was enhanced by the autograph letter which he bore from you and placed into Our hands. We are sincerely grateful for this further evidence of your solicitude for the restoration of peace among nations now estranged as well as for the expressions of cordial greeting which you have been pleased to use in Our regard.

We confess to have been sensibly affected as We beheld before Us your own Representative come upon a noble mission of peace and healing, to seek with Us ways and means of giving back to a warring world its rightful

heritage of concord and the freedom to pursue in justice and tranquillity its temporal and eternal happiness. In a moment of universal travail, when hope contends with fear in the souls of so many millions of men, We have been greatly encouraged by the vision of new possibilities of beneficent action opened up to us through the presence near Us of your distinguished Representative. Since the obligations of Christian charity towards the needy and the dispossessed have ever constituted a prior claim upon Our affections and resources as they have upon those of Our Predecessors, it is with particular satisfaction that We welcome Your Excellency's endeavors for the alleviation of suffering. Our contemporaries follow with their heartfelt prayers, and posterity will hold in honored memory, all those who, undeterred by immense difficulties, dedicate themselves to the sacred task of staunching the flow of youthful blood upon the fields of battle, and to the comforting of civilian victims despoiled and afflicted by the cruel conditions of our day. Blessed, indeed, are the peacemakers.

And although one who with discerning eye surveys the present international scene can have no illusions as to the magnitude of the role which has been undertaken, We are convinced that it is in the interest of all that We should go forward with Our labors to the end that the days of grievous trial be shortened, preparing and straightening the way, levelling the mountains of anger which bar the road to understanding and filling up the valleys of distrust and suspicion which divide man from man

and nation from nation. Thus may We hope that the natural law, graven by the Creator on the hearts of men, may soon, as it must ultimately, prevail as the universal rule of human conduct over arbitrary whim and sordid interest which here and there have usurped its place, and that in consequence the rising generation may be saved from the moral illiteracy with which they are threatened. And thus, when all shall have come finally to realize that violence is futile and that hatred is a sterile force, a wearied world may rejoice in a peace builded upon the solid foundation of justice and firmly held together by the bonds of fraternal charity.

We renew to Your Excellency the expression of Our gratitude for your greeting while, in the light of happy remembrance, We pray for your continued well-being and for that of the American people.

Given at Rome, from St. Peter's, the 16th day of March, 1940,
the second Year of Our Pontificate. ~

Pius pp. XII

Department of State

BUREAU
DIVISION

SD

ENCLOSURE

TO

Letter drafted

ADDRESSED TO

The President,
The White House.

PCF, Vatican
Taylor

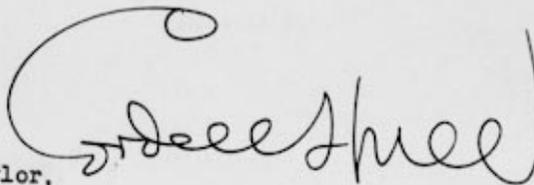
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 18, 1940

My dear Mr. President:

In compliance with your memorandum of May 24, 1940, I enclose a suggested reply which Mr. Taylor may care to make to the note verbale from the Vatican, together with a covering letter to Mr. Taylor for your signature.

Faithfully yours,



Enclosures:

- Letter to Mr. Taylor,
- Note verbale;
- Copy of letter to
Commission for Polish Relief;
- Note verbale from The Vatican.

The President,

The White House.

Vatican

May 24, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE SECRETARY OF STATE

J

To prepare reply.

F. D. R.

Enclosures

fdr/tmb

Letter from Hon. Myron C. Taylor, Rome, 4/26/40 to the President, with attached Note Verbale, dated 4/26/40, handed to Mr. Taylor by the Cardinal Secretary of State, regarding the unsuccessful efforts that the Holy See has been making to send relief to Poland.

Taylor's letter of 4/26/40 not returned with the attached copies

June 18, 1940

My dear Myron:

Replying to your letter of April 26, 1940 enclosing a copy of a note verbale of the same date regarding the unsuccessful efforts the Holy See is making to send relief to Poland, you will find enclosed a suggested form of note verbale which you may see fit to use in reply to the note verbale from the Vatican.

You will probably also explain the situation orally or elaborate upon the subject matter contained in this note, as your judgment may deem necessary.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Franklin D. Roosevelt

Enclosure.

The Honorable
Myron C. Taylor,
Personal Representative of
the President,
Vatican City.

*Original sent to State for delivery 6/18/40
Jew*

The Personal Representative of the President of the United States to His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, presents his compliments to His Eminence the Cardinal Secretary of State and has the honor to advise that he has submitted to the President the note verbale N. 7515 of April 26, 1940 with reference to the unsuccessful efforts which the Holy See has been making to send relief to Poland and, at the request of the President, has the honor to submit the following with reference thereto.

Both the President and the people of the United States are deeply sensitive of the great efforts which His Holiness, the Pope, has made, not only to preserve but also to induce peace on the earth; and, as well, the great services which have been rendered by His Holiness in alleviating and seeking further to alleviate, the suffering that has been occasioned by war.

The Government of the United States is also deeply concerned and anxious that the maximum of relief should

be extended to the civilian populations of war stricken areas in Europe.

There are a number of organizations, associations and private persons engaged in raising money for this purpose in the United States. The Government has no connection with any of these private organizations except that provided by the Neutrality Act, and the Government is not a participant in any of their respective activities. The Government has no function in connection with their administration and no control over their activities so long as they conform to the law.

The only agency for relief which is either official or quasi-official so far as the Government of the United States is concerned is the American Red Cross.

The Government is, of course, concerned that there should be coordination between these various agencies, so that there will be no conflict which would be prejudicial to the main purpose of relieving the destitution and suffering due to war conditions. It is also clear that these activities should be coordinated so that there should be

no conflict as between them in connection either with the time which each sets for the raising of monies by public subscription or with the disbursement of this aid in such a way as to produce the maximum relief.

It is beyond the power of the President to name the members of the commission as suggested, as this power rests exclusively in the Commission for Polish Relief. The substance of the specific requests therefor has been transmitted to the Commission for Polish Relief, and doubtless that organization will communicate direct to the Holy See with reference thereto.

The Personal Representative of the President has been further requested to express the hope that the Secretary of State to His Holiness, the Pope, will inform His Holiness of the deep sympathy which the President has for the humanitarian purposes upon which he has been so effectively engaged.

June 18, 1940

In reply refer to
SD

Commission for Polish Relief, Inc.,
420 Lexington Avenue,
New York, New York.

Sirs:

Upon the direction of the President I have to advise you as follows.

Under date of April 26, 1940 the Secretary of State to His Holiness addressed a communication to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States with reference to the fact that the Holy See had decided to avail itself of the good offices of the American Commission for Polish Relief as one of the agencies through which it will work in its effort to succor the people of Poland and that a considerable initial contribution had been made to the Commission and other sums on deposit in American banks could be turned over for this purpose.

The Holy See requested at that time that "the widest possible publicity be given both in America and in Poland, to the fact that the Holy See is contributing largely to the Commission's work of relief" and "that consideration might be given to the advantage which would derive in many ways

ways from the presence in Poland among the Commission's representatives of two Catholic citizens of the United States."

A reply has been sent forward to the Secretary of State to His Holiness that the Government of the United States is deeply concerned and anxious that the maximum relief should be extended to the civilian populations of war stricken areas in Europe; however, it was pointed out that there were a large number of organizations in the United States engaged in raising money for this purpose, that the Government had no connection with any of these private organizations except such as was provided by the Neutrality Act, that the Government was not a participant in any of their respective activities and that therefore it was beyond the power of the President to name the members of the Commission, as suggested. The Secretary of State to His Holiness was, however, advised that the substance of his specific request had been transmitted to the Commission for Polish Relief and that doubtless that organization would communicate directly with the Holy See with reference thereto.

Very truly yours,

W. A. R. Hall

DAL VATICANO, April 26, 1940.

N. 7515

NOTE VERBALE

The Secretariate of State to His Holiness has the honor to address this communication to the Personal Representation of the President of the United States of America to His Holiness the Pope for the purpose of making known the efforts which have been made and are being made by the Holy See to afford assistance to the stricken people of Poland.

In carrying out Their sacred mission of apostolic charity, the Sovereign Pontiffs have always been in the forefront of those who seek to alleviate the suffering which is the inevitable concomitant and consequent of war. Thus during the world war of 1914-1918, the then Sovereign Pontiff, Pope Benedict XV of venerated memory, marshalled the resources of the Holy See, in men and in treasure, for the relief of the civilian populations in war-torn countries and for the amelioration of the lot of military prisoners. It is well known also that this Pontifical work in favor of afflicted humanity was continued throughout the period of destitution which, notably in Germany, followed the cessation of hostilities.

The sad conditions ensuing upon the occupation of Poland in the autumn of last year made an instant appeal to the paternal compassion of the present Holy Father Who immediately sought by

To the Personal Representation
of the President of the United States of America
to His Holiness the Pope,

R O M E.

every means in His power to extend, in addition to spiritual comfort, that material help which was so sorely needed by the people of that country. Beginning in October 1939, official representations were made to the Government of the Reich with a view to securing passage into Poland of the relief at the disposition of the Holy See. The replies of the German Government to these and to repeated subsequent representations were dilatory and evasive. An endeavor was then made to send money to the distressed Poles in order that they might be in a position to help themselves, but the restrictions imposed and the unfavorable rate of exchange offered were such as to justify the fear that by this means only a small proportion of effective aid would ultimately reach its destination. When it finally became evident that it was not the purpose of the German Government to permit the Holy See, in its own name, to minister to the needs of these people in their tragic plight, there remained no recourse but to look elsewhere for means of arriving at the desired end.

Accordingly when information reached the Holy See that the German Government had agreed to allow the American "Commission for Polish Relief" to send supplies into Poland and to station representatives there for the purpose of supervising the distribution of these supplies to the civilian population, the Holy See saw in this permission a possible channel for communicating its own relief to the Poles. It is true that at the same time it was reported reliably from Berlin that the German authorities, while authorizing the representatives of the "Commission for Polish Relief" to remain at Warsaw to receive the

supplies shipped from America, would not permit them to exercise effective supervision over distribution. Nevertheless, in spite of this discrepancy in the information in its possession, the Holy See, in view of the urgent necessity of getting immediate aid to a people in desperate straits, has decided to avail itself of the good offices of the American "Commission for Polish Relief" as one of the agencies through which it will work in its efforts to succor the Poles. His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate at Washington, under instructions from this Secretariate of State, has already turned over to the said Commission a considerable initial contribution, and other sums are on deposit in American banks for further contributions.

The Holy See is convinced that the work of the "Commission for Polish Relief" will be greatly facilitated among the Polish people, most of whom are Catholics, if the widest possible publicity is given, both in America and in Poland, to the fact that the Holy See is contributing largely to the Commission's work of relief. To this end, it has been suggested that consideration might be given to the advantage which would derive in many ways from the presence in Poland among the Commission's representatives of two Catholic citizens of the United States.

The Secretariate of State, therefore, expresses the hope that the Personal Representation of the President of the United States of America to His Holiness the Pope may inform His Excellency the President of the motives which actuate the Holy See in its contribu-

tions to this noble charitable undertaking, and that His Excellency may find it possible to lend the high prestige of his support to the achievement of the two purposes set forth in the preceding paragraph.



STANDARD FORM No. 14A
APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT
MARCH 10, 1926

TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

FROM

RF Vatican Taylor
The White House
Washington

AUGUST 3 1940

••• 16-6451

CABLE VIA STATE DEPARTMENT

TAYLOR
VATICAN CITY
ITALY

DELIGHTED TO SEE YOU EARLY SEPTEMBER BUT PLEASE BE SURE TO
DO NO FORM OF TRAVELING UNLESS FULLY APPROVED BY MEDICAL
ADVISERS. YOUR HEALTH IS MY PRINCIPAL CONCERN. WARMEST
REGARDS

ROOSEVELT

TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

FROM

The White House
Washington

PS F
Vatican
Taylor

August 16, 1940.

••• 16-6481

TELEGRAM
THROUGH STATE DEPARTMENT
THROUGH
EMBASSY, ROME.

Hon. Myron Taylor:

Delighted you are strong enough to travel to Rome.
Take care of yourself.

ROOSEVELT.

PSF Vatican
Taylor

JIL

GRAY

FLORENCE

Dated August 16, 1940

Rec'd 1:10 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

25, August 16, 4 p.m.

For the President from Myron Taylor.

"Leaving for Rome Saturday, Tittman joins me
there."

PUTNAM

CSB

PSE Vaticana
Taylor
8-22-40

To His Excellency
Franklin Delano Roosevelt
President of the United States of America

Published in

Foreign Relations of the United States

1940, Vol. I, General

pages 128-129.

To His Excellency
Franklin Delano Roosevelt
President of the United States of America

Dius DD. XII

*Most Excellent Sir:
Health and Prosperity.*

The return to the United States of Your Excellency's Personal Representative to Us, for the purpose of recruiting in the homeland the forces so generously spent in the fulfilment of his noble mission, affords Us a welcome opportunity of sending you Our cordial greetings, and of reiterating Our appreciation for the presence of your Envoy near Us. In the light of experience, We now have further and ampler proof of the wisdom which inspired Your Excellency to dispatch your Representative to Us, as We also have cause

to rejoice at the felicity of choice which led you to entrust
this important post to the Honorable Myron C. Taylor.

These first months of the mission have occasioned
Us great satisfaction and, in spite of the dark forebodings
of the hour, We express Our hope in a future which shall
see the reestablishment of a general and enduring peace.
Although the horrors of the war increase and Our sorrow
deepens with every passing day, We are redoubling Our
prayers and Our endeavors to find a practicable way to
such a peace as will bear within it the promise of perma-
nency, and free men from the heavy incubus of insecurity
and of perpetual alarms. In Our unceasing search for that
peace which will be no longer, as so often in the past, a pa-
rentesis of exhaustion between two phases of conflict, but
rather, by the grace of God, a golden era of Christian
concord dedicated to the spiritual and material improvement
of humanity, We feel a distinct sense of comfort in the
thought that We shall not be without the powerful support
of the President of the United States.

It is therefore with heartfelt good will that We again
assure Your Excellency of Our prayers for your continued

health and happiness and for the prosperity and progress
of the American people. ☉

Given at Rome, from St. Peter's,
the 22nd day of August, 1940,
the second Year of Our Pontificate.

Pius pp. XII

PSF Valican Taylor

Conf Memo to Myron Taylor from FDR---September 13, 1940

Asks for his thought on enclosed letter to FDR from Paul Appleby, Acting Sec of Agriculture, re Wallaces discussion with the President concerning relation of present regime in France to various religious groups in other countries--attaches additional information which tells of previous activities of new French Amb to U. S.--M. Henry Hays who was closely affiliated with Mr. Hitler's agent, Abetz.

Mr. Taylor's reply of Sept 15, 1940 attached.

See:Wallace-Drawer 1-1940

October 1, 1940.

Your Holiness:-

Upon his return to the United States, Mr. Myron C. Taylor duly delivered to me your message of August twenty-second and I am deeply gratified by Your Holiness' expression of satisfaction concerning Mr. Taylor's mission.

Particular note has been taken of the assurance of Your Holiness' continuing efforts to find the way to a peace which bears promise not only of permanency, but also of freedom from perpetual alarm and opportunity for the spiritual and material improvement of humanity. It seems imperative that this search shall not be abandoned, no matter how deep may be the shadow of the present strife. It is equally necessary to realize that peace as Your Holiness conceives it must be based upon the reestablishment of Christian law and doctrine as the guiding principles which govern the relations of free men and free nations. The spiritual freedom and political independence which alone make possible this rebuilding of the structure of peace thus become a necessary part of our common goal. In the search of it, the Government and people of the United States are glad to lend their sympathy and to devote their efforts.

May I assure Your Holiness of my profound appreciation of the reception accorded to Mr. Taylor and of your message of good will.

May I also take this occasion to send
to Your Holiness my very deep personal good wishes
and to express my hope and wish for your continued
good health. The whole world needs you in its
search for peace and good will.

Faithfully yours,

His Holiness
Pius XII,
State of the Vatican City.

PSF Vatican
Taylor

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

September 25, 1940

My dear Mr. President:

In compliance with your request of September 16,
I enclose a draft of a possible reply to the communica-
tion which you have received from Pope Pius XII, which
is returned herewith.

Faithfully yours,

Cordell Hull

Enclosure:

1. Draft.
2. Communication from
Pope Pius XII.

The President,
The White House.

DRAFT

Your Holiness:

Upon his return to the United States, Mr. Myron C. Taylor duly delivered to me your message of August 22nd and I am deeply gratified by Your Holiness' expression of satisfaction concerning Mr. Taylor's mission.

Particular note has been taken of the assurance of Your Holiness' continuing efforts to find the way to a peace which bears promise not only of permanency, but also of freedom from perpetual alarm and opportunity for the spiritual and material improvement of humanity. It seems imperative that this search shall not be abandoned, no matter how deep may be the shadow of the present strife. It is equally necessary to realize that peace as Your Holiness conceives it must be based upon the reestablishment of Christian law and doctrine as the guiding principles which govern the relations of free men and free nations. The spiritual freedom and political independence which alone make possible this rebuilding

of

His Holiness
Pius XII,
State of the Vatican City.

of the structure of peace thus become a necessary part of our common goal. In the search for it, the Government and people of the United States are glad to lend their sympathy and to devote their efforts.

May I assure Your Holiness of my profound appreciation of the reception accorded to Mr. Taylor and of your message of good will.

May I also take this occasion to send to Your Holiness my very deep personal good wishes and to express my hope and wish for your continued good health. The whole world needs you in its search for peace and good will.



To His Excellency
Franklin Delano Roosevelt
President of the United States of America

Dius D D. XII

In being elected for a third term to the Presidency of the United States of America, at a time of such grave moment for the life of nations, Your Excellency has received from your country a singular proof of confidence.

The personal relations had with Your Excellency on the occasion of Our visit to the United States, when We were Cardinal Secretary of State to the late lamented Supreme Pontiff, and the gracious reception you extended to Us, put Us in the way to appreciate your generous spirit; and today, while We offer you congratulations, We pray Almighty God to guide your mind and heart in the noble and arduous task

of leading a free and vigorous people for the greater stability of universal order, justice and peace.

A tangible proof of these generous dispositions We have had in your sending His Excellency Mr. Myron Taylor to Us, as your personal Representative with rank of Ambassador Extraordinary. Special circumstances have interrupted his presence with Us; but We like to hope that the plan for the attainment of those high ideals you had in mind may yet be realized.

Indeed, We are not unaware of the efforts which you made to prevent the catastrophic struggle that is heaping up ruin and sorrow for a great part of the Old World; and in Our paternal solicitude for suffering humanity there is nothing We desire more ardently than to see true peace return at long last among peoples, who have been too long and too painfully stricken and afflicted: - that true peace, We mean, that will adjust all wrongs, that will recognize with well-judged equity the vital necessities of all, and thus mark for the world the beginning of a new era of tranquillity, collaboration and progress among peoples under the longed-for reign of Christian justice and charity.

While We renew the expression of Our good wishes

for you personally and for the nation over which you pre-
side, We invoke on both an abundance of God's blessings. ~

Given at Rome, from the Palace of the Vatican, the
twentieth day of December 1940, the second year of Our
Pontificate. ~

Pius pp. XII