

regrettable dead-lock continues, is war. To him, Fish, it seems inconceivable, however, that the Danzig question cannot be settled without arms. The more he sees of Europe, the more convinced he becomes that the policy of the United States would be correct if it kept out of all foreign entanglements and wars. He regrets the fact that the U.S. Government, as the government of a great neutral nation, has no ambassador in Berlin in the midst of this world crisis which may rock civilization itself. It is the height of stupidity for the Washington administration to keep its ambassador Wilson in America instead of in Berlin where the ambassadors of all great nations are now present.

"In response to a question Fish stated that the declaration of Assistant Secretary Grady that the United States cannot trade with totalitarian states is preposterous. The totalitarian states represent one quarter of the civilized world. If they use the barter system, it is not their fault, because its use was forced upon them by the lack of foreign exchange."

Enclosure No. 4 to Embassy despatch No. 1433 dated
September 26, 1939, entitled REPRESENTATIVE HAMILTON
FISH'S VISITS IN GERMANY.

Translation of news despatch from the evening edition
of the "Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung", dated August 16,
1939.

From our correspondent re
Oslo, 16.8.

"U.S. Senator Hamilton Fish on the Situation"

"Since yesterday the American Senator Hamilton
Fish has been staying in Oslo where the 35th Inter-
parliamentary Conference is now meeting. He came direct-
ly from Germany and was previously in Paris and London,
so that, as he emphatically states, he knows the European
situation from both sides.

"In a lengthy interview he called to mind the peace
offers which the Führer has repeatedly addressed to England
and he declared that English politicians with whom he
talked on his European trip admitted that on the British
side many mistakes had been made whereby the European
problems have been driven into a cul-de-sac. Above all
he has the impression that a false idea of the American
attitude is held in Europe. America wants to stay neutral
and keep to the standpoint of the Monroe Doctrine.

"For the clarification of the situation the American
Senator conceives of a meeting of the foreign ministers of
the four principal European powers within the next month
and possibly of arbitration by an authoritative body as
possible chosen from delegates of neutral countries. This
proposal

proposal, which in spirit meets the idea of a conference
now being propagated in West Europe. Hamilton Fish
intends to expound in detail publicly in Oslo."

Enclosure No.5 to Embassy despatch No. 1433 dated
September 26, 1939, entitled REPRESENTATIVE HAMILTON
FISH'S VISITS IN GERMANY.

Copy of Mr. George Kidd's telegram reporting interview
in Danzig with Representative Fish.

August 25, Danzig George Kidd United Press

Kidd Danzig Hamilton Fish told unipress quote
I still believe that door of peace is open and there
still is a chance settle European problems by peaceful
methods stop but if war breaks out we should keep out
of all European power politics and old balance of power
diplomacy stop I am more convinced than ever that America
must keep out of all European wars unquote Hamilton Fish
plans Berlinward Saturday night said would go Italy and
Spain if European conditions permitted later stop
Representative Coffee and Mrs. Coffee Berlinwarding
Saturday morning then plan to go Paris to sail
September seventh United Statesward stop Coffee said
unipressward quote We should remember our lesson from
World War and stay out of next one stop I fear that
communism will arise from ashes of next world
conflagration unquote paragraph Danzig quiet tonight
unipresser saw few soldiers walking leisurely about
streets at midnight but were unarmed and not carrying
packs enditem

Enclosure No.6 to Embassy despatch No. 1433 dated
September 26, 1939, entitled REPRESENTATIVE HAMILTON
FISH'S VISITS IN GERMANY.

Copy of news despatch sent by the correspondent of
the "Chicago Tribune" on August 27, 1939.

"Foreigners in Berlin were frantically trying to get reservations on trains which they believed would be leaving Berlin tonight stop They found the North Express which usually takes the tourists westward in comfort has been cancelled stop Among those using their wiles on hotel porters or trying to pull political wires for a seat on a train or plane was Congressman Hamilton Fish stop Before he found out how difficult it might be to get out of Germany he sent word to the American correspondents in Berlin that he had an important statement for the American press stop He told American reporters that Europe was on the verge of a war but that all problems could be settled by arbitration stop The Americans wanted to know whether Germany had accepted any arbitration proposal or would accept any and if so who would be arbitrator whom Germany would find acceptable stop Fish merely repeated his initial statement adding that he had his information from high sources stop For half an hour before he talked to his countrymen he had been enjoying a cooling drink with the gentleman of the Foreign Office in charge of the relations with the American press and visiting politicians, Dr. Sallet who is remarkably well informed on America stop He

traveled

traveled there extensively with his charming wife before during and after his appointment to the German Embassy in Washington stop Fish stated Ballet was very close to the highest in Germany and that despite his youth he was a lieutenant colonel stop When the correspondents told him that he could not possibly be a colonel in the German Army Fish thought matters over and conceded that his rank might refer to the number of stars and insignia on the black diplomatic uniform which Hitler picked for his diplomats and which Ballet wears stop The stars and different kinds of braid show the rank of the official in the Foreign Office paragraph Every time Fish repeated everything could be settled by arbitration his voice grew more sonorous stop He finally admitted that arbitration would be considered by Germany only after she was given Danzig the Corridor and quote what she wants in the west unquote stop When everybody jumped on the word west he admitted it was a slip of the tongue and that he meant east stop Then he proceeded to talk amply about the necessity of removing all the vestiges of the Versailles Treaty paragraph Correspondents deeply interested in how a peaceful arbitration could be worked out finally asked if Roosevelt's suggestions could be used for the arbitration Fish thinks is possible stop He replied quote yes something like that - I don't know exactly what Roosevelt's proposals are unquote stop The Germans have stated that the Roosevelt proposals are not acceptable paragraph

paragraph Knowing that a constant Cose like repetition
of quote Everything can be settled peaceably unquote does
not provide the means of bringing about the desired peace
the correspondents failed to grow enthusiastic stop
Afterwards Fish complained that they were all for war
stop Until he scurried out of the hotel to catch trans-
poration which the Foreign Office helped him obtain Fish
was unable to suggest how the much desired arbitration
could be brought about."

Enclosure No.7 to Embassy despatch No. 1433 dated
September 26, 1939, entitled REPRESENTATION HAMILTON
FISH'S VISITS IN GERMANY.

Translation of news despatch from the evening edition
of the "Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" dated August 28,
1939.

"U.S. Senator Fish says Germany's Demand is Just."

From dnb New York, 23.8.

"The United Press reports from Berlin that
Senator Hamilton Fish, who is en route to Paris, ex-
pressed his conviction that Germany's demands are
just. He added that he is in favor of the liquidation
of the consequences of the Treaty of Versailles in the
East."

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*PSF Hull
1*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

September 28, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Will you personally let
me know what to reply to the
enclosed?

F. D. R.

Letter from Frederick M.
Davenport, Chairman, Council
of Personnel Administration,
dated Sept. 26, 1939, recom-
mending special representative
of this country in Berlin at
this time and suggests Mr.
Raymond Geist.

PSF: Hull -
/

Memorandum to Cordell Hull
From the President
September 30, 1939

Asks him to read enclosed excerpt from Bryan's letter
to the German Ambassador early in 1915. Thinks it might be
used against us on Senate floor and an answer should be ready.

See:Neutrality folder-Drawer 2-1939