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. 1623, 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, 16th.

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

"Since yesterday the American Senator Hamilton Fish has been staying in Oslo where the 35th Interparliamentary Conference is now meeting. He came directly 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.8 to Embassy despatch No. 1432, 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 26, Danzig George Kidd United Press

Kidd Danzig Hamilton Fish told unipress quote I still believe that door of peace is open and there is still 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 end item
Enclousure No. 6 to Embassy dispatch No. 1411 dated September 28, 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, Mr. 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 Sallot 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 Sallot 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 Goei like repetition of quote Everything can be settled peaceable 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 hurried out of the hotel to catch transporation 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. 143, dated September 26, 1930, entitled REPRESENTATIVE HAMILTON FISH'S VISITS IN GERMANY.

Translation of news despatch from the evening edition of the "Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" dated August 28, 1930.

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

From dnb New York, 20.0.

"The United Press reports from Berlin that Senator Hamilton Fish, who is on route to Paris, expressed 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."
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. 28, 1939, recommending special representative of this country in Berlin at this time and suggests Mr. Raymond Geist.
Memorandum to Cordell Hull
From the President
September 30, 1939

Asks him to read enclosed excerpt from Brynn'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