

● PSF

State Dept. : Welles

Jan. - June 1939

PSF
Welles
1

January 9, 1939.

Letter to the President from Sumner Welles
transmitting the original of a communication to the
President from His Majesty Abdul Aziz ibn Saud, King
of Saudi Arabia.

Re-Jewish situation and Palestine

See: Palestine folder-Drawer 1-1939

PSF
Stats:
Welles

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 9, 1939.

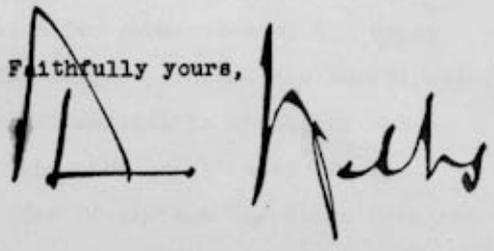
My dear Mr. President:

The Spanish Ambassador left with me this morning a chart and memorandum indicating the German submarine bases now established in Spanish territory.

I believe you will find them of interest.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,



Enclosures:
Chart;
Memorandum.

The President,
The White House.

GERMAN SUBMARINE BASES IN SPAIN

Barcelona, Dec. 18--In the last few months, Germans have built five submarine bases on the coast of Spain. Three are on the northern coast: at Pasajes (Bilbao), at El Ferrol and at Villagarcia (Vigo). The other two are near the Straits of Gibraltar, at Malaga and Seville, east and west of Gibraltar.

These bases are of the latest type. Much of the equipment already existing in 1936 has been used in setting them up. They include skillfully camouflaged shelters of reinforced concrete which are effective protection from attacks by air or by sea and which serve as shelters for submarines of all types. There are underground depots for torpedos, mines and munitions, fuel tanks, workshops for keeping submarines in condition and excellent equipment for making even the most complicated repairs.

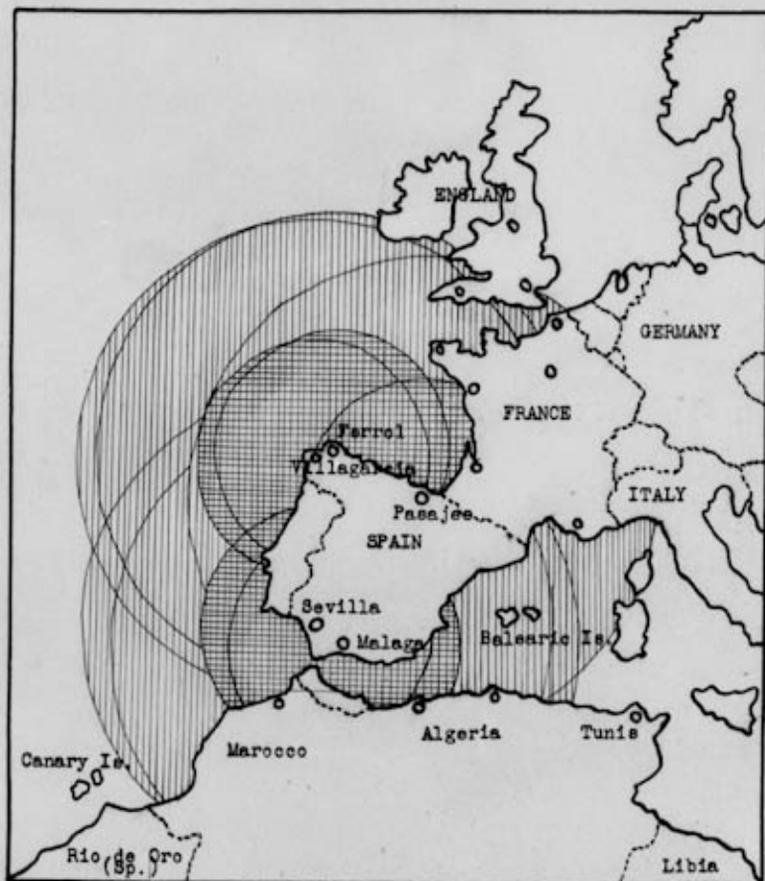
Care has been taken to protect the bases from sea or air attacks. There are strong barrages, combined with powerful floating and stationary artillery, many anti-aircraft batteries of 88 and 27 mm. as well as some of 20mm for use during attacks made at low altitude.

The strategic value of the submarine bases is the following: the three northern bases are about 520 kilometers from Brest; 220 from the southern and southwestern coasts of Great Britain and 1,100 from the Dover-Calais line. In other words, one of the slowest German submarines, of 250 tons with a 9,200 kilometer radius of action, would have to use only 24 percent of its capacity in order to reach the Dover-Calais line and then return to its base.

For the same trip, German submarines having from 500 to 712 tons and a radius of 13,000 kilometers would need only 15 percent of their radius of action.

GERMAN SUBMARINE BASES IN SPAIN:

PASAJES, FERROL, VILLAGARCIA, SEVILLA, MALAGA.



 r = 500 kms.

 r = 1000 kms.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

January 18, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE

Will you speak to me
about this?

F. D. R.

Longhand memorandum

S. W.

Jimmy Dunn -- not to be reported
to by S. S.

How about Puleston? Retired.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date MAR 7 1972

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*PSF
Welles*

~~Confidential~~

January 21, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR

SUMNER WELLES

To prepare reply.

F. D. R.

Enc. - Letter 1/7/39 from Amb. Claude G. Bowers,
Saint-Jean-de-Luz, France - re Message to
Congress and comments on general foreign
situation. etc.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*PSF
Welles*

~~Confidential~~

January 21, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR

SUMNER WELLES

TO PREPARE REPLY.

F. D. R.

Enc. - Letter 1/5/39 from Amb. William Phillips Rome, Italy together with memo of his conversation with Mussolini.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PSF
Welles

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

January 21, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR

SUMNER WELLES

TO PREPARE REPLY.

F. D. R.

Letter - 1/8/39 from George A. Gordon, The Hague, Netherlands tells of enthusiastic reception with which President's message to Congress was received there.

PSF
Welles

File
Personal

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

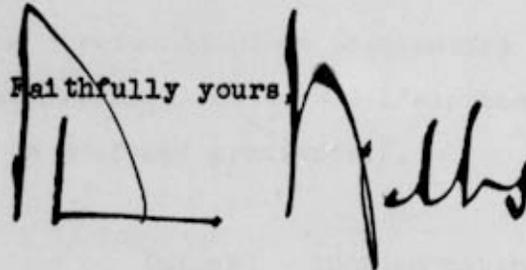
January 25, 1939

My dear Mr. President:

In reply to the inquiry contained in your letter of January 24, it does not seem to me that the message from the French Prime Minister which the French Ambassador left with you requires any further acknowledgment. You received the Ambassador personally and from what he tells me made him very happy by expressing your particular appreciation of the message sent you. The Ambassador immediately transmitted to his Prime Minister the statements which you made to him and I believe that that can be regarded as complete acknowledgment of the message you received.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,



Enc.

The President,
The White House.

AMBASSADE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
AUX ÉTATS-UNIS

Washington, le

Le Président du Conseil
à
l'Ambassadeur de France à Washington

Le Gouvernement français apprécie hautement l'appui que le Président des États-Unis a tenu à donner lui-même aux membres de la Mission française du Ministère de l'Air. Il se rend pleinement compte de l'effort consenti au bénéfice de l'armée de l'air française par le Gouvernement américain, à la faveur de la haute intervention dont il sait toute l'importance et les heureuses conséquences.

Je vous serais obligé de transmettre personnellement à M. le Président Roosevelt l'expression de mes sentiments de profonde gratitude./.

(signé) EDOUARD DALADIER

PARIS, le 19 janvier 1939.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

From the desk of—
Malvina C. Thompson

*file
personal*

For the President

PS F: Welles

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 26, 1939

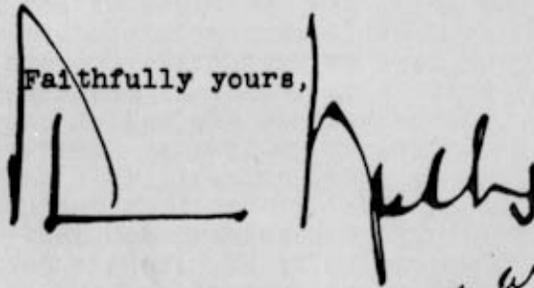
My dear Mr. President:

I have known Edwin Wilson for many years and I consider him, as I think the Secretary does, one of the two or three ablest men in our Foreign Service. It is inconceivable that he would send a message of this kind. If he felt it necessary to express any views to you directly he would undoubtedly do it through the Department.

So far as I can be sure of anything, I am sure that this is not "our Wilson".

Do you wish me to send a copy of this message to the Embassy in Paris and ask Bullitt to try to find out what Wilson it may be?

Faithfully yours,



The President

The White House.

E. P. note with
? I imagine
don't you?
E.P.
FDR

TELEGRAM

The White House
Washington

NA32PO. RA. 653-

Paris, January 21, 1939

NLT.Honorable Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt
(Personal)

Would greatly appreciate if you could arrange that following message reaches President Roosevelt.

French Government has done everything to strengthen country by abolishing forty hour week, increasing taxation, etc., but business conditions here and European democracies are deteriorating rapidly causing widespread pessimism as how heavy taxes can be paid and creating spirit of defeatism and feeling that slow moving democracies who are always on defensive cannot cope with dictators. Smaller countries are losing faith in ability large democracies withstand dictators and consequently they are rapidly becoming subservient to dictators. This state of advancing paralysis has been going on for months and dictators' next blow will shortly be against France which is last important bulwark of democracies in Continental Europe. If we let ourselves slide into another crisis similar to September we shall always be on defensive and forced to give one vital concession after another. I believe Herbert Hoover system of letting things deteriorate almost to point of disaster before taking constructive action is particularly dangerous now. With combined dictators menace facing her France's financial, business, economic and internal strength is being sapped daily, therefore we must act quickly if France is to avoid serious internal weakening and another so called just appeasement such as Munich, which is travesty on the word appeasement if one sees what a vassal state subject to Germany Czechoslovakia has become. Soundest method of defense is attack and therefore I respectfully submit following suggestion to you to avoid dry rot going any further. As mere technical arrangements in themselves such as present defacto stabilization are not sufficient to help France financially and internally I recommend immediate legal stabilization of franc, pound sterling and dollar and simultaneously increasing price of gold in all three currencies to your legal limit so world would realize such stabilization rests on firm foundation and average Frenchman can confidently face approaching dictators' blow with knowledge that democracies are united by something more concrete than good wishes. As it is generally realized that price of gold will eventually have to be increased from its present artificial level in England, France and United States until this occurs and gold price is raised to equivalent of forty one dollars per ounce in these three countries, confusion, business uncertainty and currency doubts will multiply and nothing can bring order out of existing chaos.

TELEGRAM

The White House
Washington

-2-

This united financial front of three leading democracies could also have deterring effect on future aggressive policies of dictators who always count on weakening one country at a time and hence their combined attempt to sap France's strength. It is difficult to realize how business stagnation and depression has developed and how demoralized public feeling has become these last few weeks. After recent years of hardship here they do not feel they are getting much tangible help from England or America in facing combined dictators' oncoming blow. There may be certain important people in leading democratic governments who in their efforts for so called appeasement and also for certain other reasons will oppose adopting my suggestion now. Such individuals would risk weakening France's financial, economic and internal structure even though this would force her to accept another Munich capitulation, but any such weakening of France would certainly be against America's interest and extremely dangerous to United States. I respectfully recommend that this united front of three leading democracies be put into effect immediately as in addition to other vital reasons enumerated above it will also be concrete warning to dictators before dictators by their aggressive tactics place themselves in inextricable position from which they cannot retreat. If my foregoing suggestion could be made effective before Hitler's speech on January thirtieth I believe it will change course of world events as otherwise European situation may get beyond control.

Wilson.

PSF: Welles

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 26, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE

Before making a final decision in the Wiedemann case, I think you should talk the matter over, in confidence, with Lamar Hardy, who has just retired as United States District Attorney in New York.

F. D. R.

General 20' 1939
JAN 24 1939
155-10000

PSF: Welles

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 24, 1939

My dear Mr. President:

With reference to our conversation on the telephone yesterday evening, I have confirmed my impression that no request has yet been made of this Government by the German Government for the issuance of an exequatur to Captain Fritz Wiedemann as German Consul General in San Francisco.

As you know, Captain Wiedemann was Hitler's commanding officer during the World War and has in recent years been one of his three Adjutants. He has discharged numerous personal missions for Hitler abroad, particularly in England.

I find that our Embassy in Berlin has considered that Wiedemann represented an influence for moderation. Against this the only adverse factor of record is a reference made by Rumrich in an affidavit dated February 17, 1938, in which Rumrich stated that Wiedemann, as Hitler's personal emissary, had visited German units in the United States. In a telegram dated January 21, our Chargé d'Affaires in

The President,

The White House.

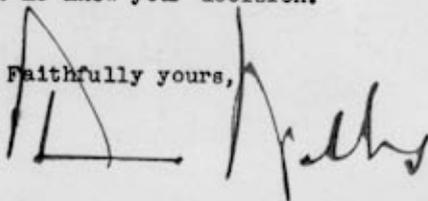
Berlin reported that he was inclined to interpret the reported appointment of Wiedemann as Consul General in San Francisco "as a means to remove Wiedemann from Hitler's immediate entourage, where he is generally considered to have represented an influence in the direction of a policy of moderation and a meeting of the viewpoint of foreign countries".

In a telegram dated January 23, the Embassy in Paris reported that the view was expressed by a leading Paris financial paper, in discussing the dismissal of Schacht, that "the coincidental removal of Captain Wiedemann - adversary of von Ribbentrop's extremist policy - with the disgrace of the President of the Reichsbank, leaves the way clear to a financial and economic policy subordinated entirely to military needs."

Unless you see some reason to the contrary, if and when the official request for the exequatur is made, it would seem to me that we should make no objection but that we should have Wiedemann's activities in San Francisco followed in the most detailed manner by our own agents without permitting Wiedemann to know that he is being so followed. Will you let me know your decision.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. H. H. H.', written over the typed name 'Faithfully yours,'.

*file
pres mail*

*PSF
Wells*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

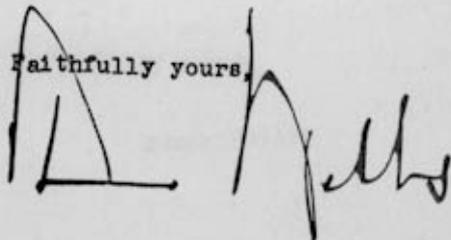
January 30, 1939

My dear Mr. President:

I am sending you herewith a copy of a despatch dated January 18 last received from our Legation in Bogotá. This despatch contains excerpts from editorials appearing in the leading Colombian papers with regard to your annual message to the Congress and I believe that you will be interested in reading the opinions expressed.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,



Enc.

The President,
The White House.

Bogotá, Colombia, January 18, 1939.

No. 2551

Subject: Editorial Comment by Bogotá Press
regarding President Roosevelt's
Opening Message to Congress.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department that editorial comment in the Bogotá press has, with the exception of the consistently critical Siglo (Conservative), taken occasion to commend President Roosevelt's opening message to Congress.

La Razon (January 5) states that "Roosevelt in his message has expressed the unanimous sentiment of America with regard to continental policy" and El Tiempo (January 6) wrote that "at this gloomy moment when we do not know whether a catastrophe is approaching which will overwhelm civilization and destroy culture, words such as those which have been pronounced by President
Roosevelt

Roosevelt reenforce the faith and the optimism of those who do not believe that all is lost in this crazy world". The opinion of El Liberal (January 6) is that "never has any other American come to be, as is Roosevelt at present, the mandatary of civilization, the representative of justice, the champion of the Christian life, on a planet on which Christianity, civilization, and justice are sinking between vacillation and audacity".

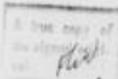
El Espectador (January 5) alludes to the President's speech by saying that "the stability of his mind, his clear judgment of the reality and the duties of America, and the importance that the greatness of his country gives to his words has tacitly converted the North American President into the authorized spokesman of Pan Americanism, of whose sincere loyalty he can have no doubt".

Respectfully yours,

Winthrop S. Greene
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

800

OK/hlw



file
Confidential

PSF; Welles
Stats

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 30, 1939

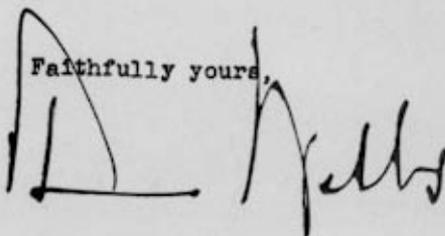
My dear Mr. President:

I received this morning from the British Chargé d'Affaires the text of a further message from Lord Halifax which the latter has requested be transmitted to you for your "personal and secret information". I am transmitting herewith a copy of the message as delivered to me.

In a telegram received from our Embassy in London - No. 117 of January 28, 2 p.m. - practically the identical text was cabled to the Department. This telegram was sent over to you and I assume that you have therefore already read this message.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,



Enc.

The President,
The White House.

PERSONAL AND SECRET MESSAGE FROM LORD HALIFAX.

Since their last message His Majesty's Government have been considering what would be their attitude in the event of an unprovoked German invasion of Holland, and their provisional view, subject to confirmation, is as follows.

There is it is true no hope that such military action as His Majesty's Government could take would prevent Holland from being overrun by German armies and the restoration of her territory would depend on the final outcome of the war.

Nevertheless the strategic importance of Holland and her colonies is so great that in the view of His Majesty's Government a German attack on Holland must be regarded as a direct threat to the security of the Western Powers. Failure to take up such a challenge would place Germany in a position of overwhelming predominance in Europe and in such circumstances His Majesty's Government are accordingly disposed to think they would have no choice but to regard a German invasion of Holland as a casus belli assuming that Holland resisted invasion.

His Majesty's Government are sounding the French and Belgian Governments confidentially and on the receipt of the latter's views they will further consider the question.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
January 30th, 1939

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 31, 1939.

file
↑

MEMORANDUM FOR
MRS. ROOSEVELT

TO READ AND RETURN

F. D. R.

PSF: Welles

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 25, 1939

My dear Mr. President:

With reference to the telegram from Barcelona signed by a group of Spanish ladies, alleging the murder by the Rebel forces in Spain of two hundred women, which you sent over to me on January 21, I am enclosing herewith two telegrams received this morning from our Chargé d'Affaires in Barcelona which refer to the charges contained in the cable you sent me.

It seems to be clear in the two telegrams I enclose that none of the foreign correspondents have as yet had an opportunity to verify the charges made. Under existing circumstances, of course, this would be almost impossible. Personally, I have no doubt whatever that the reports may be entirely accurate. However, I think you may agree with me that it would be undesirable for the White House to make any comment on the report unless we had some more positive evidence

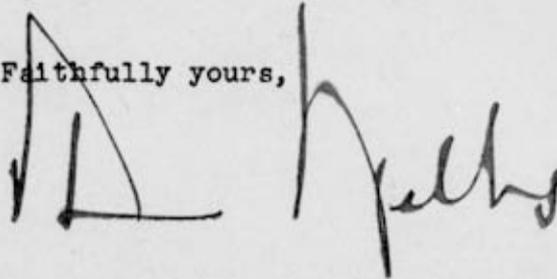
The President,

The White House.

than that as yet presented.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. Kelly". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed phrase "Faithfully yours,".

REB

A portion of
this telegram must be
closely paraphrased be-
fore being communicated
to anyone. (A)

(MADRID)
Barcelona via N. R.

Dated January 24, 1939

Rec'd 6:50 p. m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1187, January 24, 7 p. m. (GRAY)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Your 515, January 23, 3 p. m.

The story regarding the alleged slaughter of old men,
women and children by troops of the Littorio Division
following their occupation of Santa Coloma de Queralt first
appeared in the Barcelona newspapers on January 17. It was
attributed to the commander of the Eleventh Division, who
stated that when his forces evacuated that village they
took positions on the heights surrounding it from which,
a few hours later, they observed, without the use of
field glasses, that all the old men, women and children
who had taken refuge in Santa Coloma de Queralt from the
surrounding territory had been assembled in a group. They
were then slaughtered by machine gun fire. It was
estimated that some 225 to 250 persons were killed. This
report

REB

2-#1187, From Madrid, Jan.24,7p.m.

report was carried in the press for several days, together with an appeal to world opinion signed by the President of the Cortes, heads of political parties, deputies, writers, and others. (END GRAY)

The propaganda section of the Ministry of State to whose censorship all foreign correspondents are subject handed this story to them and some of them carried it. The Associated Press correspondent informed me at the time that he mistrusted it and did not carry it.

I shall make such efforts as are possible under present conditions to verify the report.

THURSTON

EMB

REB

GRAY

(MADRID)
BARCELONA VIA N.R.

Dated January 24, 1939

Rec'd 7:10 p. m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1189, January 24, 10 p. m.

My 1187, January 24, 7 p. m.

Robert Allen, an American who came to Spain as an ambulance driver with the International Brigade, but who for some time has been assistant correspondent for the Associated Press and Reuters is tonight stopping in the Embassy awaiting evacuation.

Allen informs me that while neither the Associated Press nor Reuters carried the atrocity story at first they did so later after becoming reasonably convinced of its truth. He says the Government offered to take foreign correspondents to the front to interview eyewitnesses but this plan could not be carried out.

THURSTON

EMB

HTM

FAST



RCA

DIRECT



RADIOGRAM

R.C.A. COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

A RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA SERVICE

TO ALL THE WORLD — BETWEEN IMPORTANT U. S. CITIES — TO SHIPS AT SEA

RECEIVED AT 1112 CONNECTICUT AVE., WASHINGTON, D. C., AT RCA STANDARD TIME

WN104CL BARCELONA 281 19 2230 GBW1089

NLT MRS ROOSEVELT

1939 JAN 20 AM 12 16

WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

ONCE MORE SPANISH PEOPLE SHUDDER IN HORROR AND INDIGATION AT CRUEL DEED
WITHOUT PRECEDENT IN HISTORY STOP IN CATALAN VILLAGE SANTA COLOMA DE
QUERALT TWO HUNDRED WOMEN WERE SHOT IN COLD BLOOD AFTER BEING GATHERED
TOGETHER IN VILLAGE THRESHINGFLOOR STOP THIS HORRIBLE CRIME COMMITTED

*JOP
Can you check
if this is true - if so
help I will be grateful
just for fact - JOP*

Telephone: National 2600

Form 114WN—TD 190

To secure prompt action on inquiries, this original RADIOGRAM should be presented at the office of R.C.A. COMMUNICATIONS, Inc. In telephone inquiries quote the number preceding the place of origin.

FAST



RCA

DIRECT



RADIOGRAM
R.C.A. COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
A RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA SERVICE

TO ALL THE WORLD — BETWEEN IMPORTANT U. S. CITIES — TO SHIPS AT SEA

RECEIVED AT 1112 CONNECTICUT AVE., WASHINGTON, D. C., AT _____ STANDARD TIME
WN104CL

MRS

2/50

ON DEFENCELESS WOMEN SHOWED UP INVASIONS TREACHERY AND HORROR FOR
MURDERERS FORMED PART ITALIAN LITTORIO DIVISION STOP WE WANT ALL WOMEN
TO KNOW OF THIS DEED WHICH ADDS ONE MORE CRIME TO THOSE COMMITTED BY
INVADERS STOP MAY WOMENS CONSCIENCE WORLD OVER AS MOTHERS WIVES DAUGHTERS
RISE UP IN WAY

Telephone: National 2600

Form 111WN—TD 100

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FAST



RCA

DIRECT



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TO ALL THE WORLD — BETWEEN IMPORTANT U. S. CITIES — TO SHIPS AT SEA

RECEIVED AT 1112 CONNECTICUT AVE., WASHINGTON, D. C., AT _____ STANDARD TIME

WN104CL

MRS

3/50

PASSIONATE PROTEST UNMASKING THOSE COVETING OUR LAND AND OPENING
HUMANITY'S EYES TO THIS DEED INHUMANITY WHICH TEARS AT OUR HEARTS AS WOMEN

LUISA ALVAREZ DEL VAYO WIFE MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS

ISABEL OYORZABAL PALENCIA SPANISH MINISTER STOCKHOLM

MARGARITA NELKEN DEPUTY ETSECRETARY RUP MATILDE DE LA TORRE

DEPUTY JULIA ALVAREZ RESANO DEPUTY

Telephone: National 2600

Form 111FVN—TD 190

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WN104CL

MRS

4/50

JOSEFA RUIZ GENERAL DIRECTOR EVACUATION
MATILDE CANTOS GENERAL INSPECTOR PRISONS
MATILDE HUICE SPANISH DELEGATE LEAGUE NATIONS SOCIAL
PROBLEMS COMMITTEE DOLORES PIERA MUNICIPAL COUNCILLOR
TRINIDAD ARROYO DE MARQUEZ DOCTOR MARGARITA COMAS
PROFESOR GENERALITAT NORMAL SCHOOL EMILIA ELIAS
DIRECTOR MADRID NORMAL SCHOOL JUANA ONTANON PROFESSORS
MADRID NORMAL SCHOOL ROSA ROIG DOLORES NOGUES

Telephone: National 2600

Form 1117WN-TD 194

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RCA

DIRECT



RADIOGRAM
R.C.A. COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
A RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA SERVICE

TO ALL THE WORLD — BETWEEN IMPORTANT U. S. CITIES — TO SHIPS AT SEA

RECEIVED AT 1112 CONNECTICUT AVE., WASHINGTON, D. C., AT _____ STANDARD TIME
WN104CL

MRS

5/50

DOLORES CABALLERO LUISA ESTEVEZ ALL PROFESSORS BARCELONA NORMAL
SCHOOL MARIA TERESA MARTINEZ BUJANDA INSPECTOR PRIMARY EDUCATION
MERCEDES USUA PROFESSOR BARCELONA NORMAL SCHOOL MARIA ZAMBRANO
WRITER MATILDE MUNOZ WRITER DOLORES IBARRURI CALLED PASIONARIA
VICEPRESIDENT OF CORTES IRENE FALCON WRITER TRINI TORRIJOS
CONSUELO ALVAREZ WRITER JOSEFA LOPEZ GARRIDO GLORIA MORELL
CONSTANCIA ETORA

Telephone: National 2600

Form 113WN—TD 194

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FAST



RCA

DIRECT



RADIOGRAM
R.C.A. COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
A RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA SERVICE

TO ALL THE WORLD — BETWEEN IMPORTANT U. S. CITIES — TO SHIPS AT SEA

RECEIVED AT 1112 CONNECTICUT AVE., WASHINGTON, D. C., AT _____ STANDARD TIME

WN104CL

6/31

CHIEF FOREIGN PRESS OFFICE BELEN SARRAGA WRITER AURORA ARNAIZ
VICTORIA KENT DEPUTY ADVOCATE ROBERTA RAMON PEPITA MELIA ACTRESS
ROBERTA CARMENLAGAR ACTRESS MAGDA DONATO WRITER NATALIA ELASUA
VICE PRESIDENT BASQUE CATHOLIC WOMEN

Telephone: National 2600

Form 113WN-TD 190

To secure prompt action on inquiries, this original RADIOGRAM should be presented at the office of R.C.A. COMMUNICATIONS, Inc. In telephone inquiries quote the number preceding the place of origin.

PSFI Welles

February 4, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE and
UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE:

This is interesting but I do not
put any credence in it. Please return when you
have read it.

F.D.R.

Strictly confidential letter to President from
Anthony Biddle, Warsaw, Jan. 12, 1939

RE: Reports in effect indicate that behind the
scenes Hitler and Chamberlain "were playing a game
so deep that all side plays means little, if anything
at all".

FDR/dj

Sent over by messenger this afternoon

**Memo to President
From Sumner Welles
Feb. 10-1939**

*PST
Welles
(1)*

Encloses copy of telegram which was sent to Myron Taylor and George Rublee from Hull in regard to the Program of Emigration which the German Government indicated its willingness to carry out.

See-Palestine folder-Drawer 1-1939-Foreign File

PSF
file Miller
1

March 20, 1939

Letter to President
From Sumner Welles

In re-talk with Mayor La Guardia about the
Czechoslovak Pavilion at World's Fair .

See-World's Fair Folder--Drawer 2--1939

PSF: state
Walker
1939

March 25, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE

In regard to Easter Island:

1. It is a definite possibility as a stopping place for trans-South Pacific planes, commercial or military.
2. It should, therefore, under no circumstances, be transferred to any non-American nation.
3. I doubt at this time the political wisdom of its purchase by the United States, and also the possibility of getting any large appropriation through the Congress.
4. Have you considered a different angle? Easter Island is unique in possessing remains of pre-historic men — the great recumbent stone figures which have never yet been adequately explained. No serious scientific excavation work has been done on the Island. It is, therefore, of the greatest importance that it be preserved to science for all time. In this respect it is a little like the Galapagos Islands.
5. Would it be possible to tie up Easter Island and the Galapagos in a Pan-American trusteeship; the Islands to be preserved for all time against colonization and for natural science? Ecuador and Chile (if a reasonable sum could be arrived at) would be paid for the Islands over a period of years, the sovereignty to vest in the trustees; the trustees to protect them and prevent their use for military purposes. I do not like the idea of a lease. The payments would be made by all the American Republics over a period of years and in proportion to the total wealth of the Republics. This would put, of course, the greatest burden on the United States.

6. Cocos Island could be included, for it has no military value to us but might have military value to a non-American power as a temporary base in war operations.

As I remember Easter Island, it has no harbor. Will you let me have some information regarding it? It may not even be available for sea planes or land planes.

F. D. R.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 14, 1939

Confidential

My dear Mr. President:

As you may recall, indications have reached this Government from time to time in recent years to the effect that the Chilean Government was disposed for a consideration to lease for a long term or possibly to sell Easter Island.

In a despatch written last month shortly after his return to Chile, Ambassador Armour reported:

"that from several sources members of the Mission have heard suggestions that the present (in view of Chile's great need for money) would be a particularly advantageous time for Chile and the United States to reach an agreement transferring ownership of Easter Island from the former to the latter".

The Navy Department in 1921 affirmed that:

"The possibility of any foreign power gaining possession of the island . . . would be attended with grave results to the power and prestige of the United States".

If, as I believe, this statement is still valid, it has occurred to me that with the rapidly increasing
speed

The President,

The White House.

speed and cruising range of aircraft, it is not impossible that the island may shortly have a value other than negative as a base for commercial as well as military aircraft.

While Easter Island is roughly two thousand nautical miles from the Chilean coast and far to the south of the present generally accepted air routes to Asia and Australasia, it lies only a few hundred miles south of the great circle course from Panamá to Auckland, New Zealand. The distance from the American coast of this island does, however, raise the question whether it should be properly considered in connection with the American continent. It is open to doubt whether its acquisition or long-term lease by the United States would arouse any alarm in the other American republics, since, except for Chile itself, the island is farther away from the coast line of any of these republics than are other naval bases of this country.

In any case, it would appear that certain responsible officials in Chile itself have not considered that the sale of this island to a non-American power would violate any hemispherical doctrine of non-transfer of territory or prejudice the defense of the continent, since it is known that in the past Chile has several times discussed with foreign nations its possible sale. The United States Naval Attaché in Santiago was informed on June 7, 1937 by the Subsecretary of National Defense for Marine
that

that the President of Chile had authorized him to offer Easter Island for sale or lease in order to finance the construction of two Chilean cruisers abroad and that accordingly he was approaching informally not only the United States but the representatives of Great Britain, Germany and Japan.

Irrespective of these considerations, it is apparent that transfer of the possession of Easter Island to a non-American power might be construed in some quarters as action infringing our traditional position regarding acquisition of territory in this hemisphere.

In the light of the particular conditions favorable to the transfer of possession of Easter Island as reported by our Ambassador in Chile, and in the light of the other considerations raised in my letter, I should be grateful for an expression of your views on the following points:

1. Whether the acquisition or long-term lease of Easter Island by this Government would conflict with the recognized policy of this Government not to seek territorial expansion as recently restated by you in your address of February 18, 1939 at Tampa, Florida.

Memorandum concerning
Easter Island.

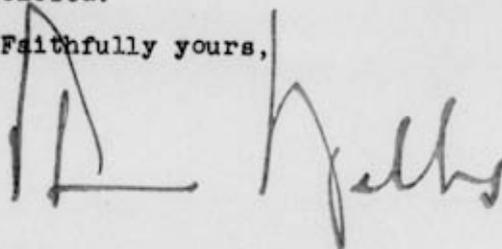
2. If

2. If you feel that such a purchase or long-term lease would not be inconsistent with this policy, whether you believe that the possession of Easter Island by this Government is desirable, and accordingly whether you would be disposed to authorize the American Ambassador in Chile to approach discreetly the appropriate authorities of the Chilean Government with a view to the acquisition or long-term lease of Easter Island.

3. Your views as to the purchase price, or in the case of a long-term lease, the annual rental which this Government might be prepared to pay for the acquisition or lease of Easter Island, having in mind Chile's urgent need for financial assistance.

A memorandum giving the characteristics and the history of reported negotiations for the transfer of Easter Island and certain observations on Chile's present financial condition is enclosed.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "A. H. H. H.", written in a cursive style.

Enclosure:

Memorandum concerning
Easter Island.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION (RA
BUREAU (

ENCLOSURE

TO

LETTER DRAFTED

ADDRESSED TO

~~The President~~

MEMORANDUM

March 11, 1939.

Confidential

Easter Island, and Certain Conditions to be
Considered in Connection with its Possible
Acquisition or Long-term Lease by the
United States

General Characteristics

Easter Island (Rapa Nui) (27° 5' south, 109° 20' west) was formally annexed to Chile in 1888. It has a population of about 250 and is governed by a Chilean administrator.

The island is triangular in shape and about twenty-nine miles in circumference. It is volcanic in origin and has numerous craters, none of which have been active for many years. The coast is rocky, and there are only one or two sandy beaches. There is no sheltered harbor, although there are several landing places.

Most of the island is covered with grass which affords some pasturage for cattle and sheep, and tropical fruits and vegetables may be grown. Water is scarce, although there is one fresh water well.

History of Reported Negotiations for Transfer

In 1919 the United States Consul General in Valparaiso reported that he had been reliably informed that

that Japan was attempting to negotiate for the purchase of Easter Island. In 1921 the Ambassador again reported reliable information that Japan was interested in the purchase of Easter Island, and under instructions from the Department obtained from the Chilean Foreign Minister assurances that this Government would be fully advised and that no definite action would be taken without full knowledge of all facts by the Ambassador.

It was in response to notification of these rumored negotiations by Japan, that the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Josephus Daniels, in a letter of March 1, 1921 stated as follows:

"I have the honor to inform you that while the Navy Department does not at this time desire the use of Easter Island for naval purposes, it considers that the possibility of any foreign power gaining possession of the island or concessions which would permit of future military or naval activities there would be attended with grave results to the power and prestige of the United States".

In 1930 the Naval Attaché at the American Embassy in Santiago was approached by a deputy of the Chilean Congress, who stated that he had been authorized by the Chilean Government to give the United States a first opportunity to buy Easter Island, and that if the United States Government was not interested, "it would be offered for sale to England, Japan, or some other country".

The

Financial Conditions with Respect to Proposed Transfer

The United States Naval Attaché in Santiago reported on June 8, 1937 that the day before he had been called by the Subsecretary of National Defense for Marine to come to his office where he was informed that the President of Chile in consultation with the Minister of National Defense and the Commander in Chief of the Chilean Fleet had decided to offer Easter Island for sale or lease in order to finance the construction of two cruisers abroad. The Naval Attaché was requested to inquire whether or not his Government was interested and was informed that the Governments of England, Germany, and Japan had also been approached in the matter. The American Ambassador in Chile later reported that although the Japanese Government had given an indication of its interest in the acquisition of the island, the Chilean Government had stated that no further negotiations had taken place. In an instruction dated February 4, 1938 the American Chargé d'Affaires in Santiago was informed that he should "avail himself of the next suitable opportunity to explain to the appropriate Chilean authorities the interest of this Government in any proposed transfer, permanent or temporary, of Easter Island to a non-American country."

to be preferable.

Financial

Financial Conditions with Respect to Proposed Transfer

Even before the recent earthquake which took so many lives and which virtually paralyzed the economy of certain hitherto moderately prosperous regions of the country, the Republic of Chile was experiencing a difficult economic crisis because of exchange stringency and the necessity to increase Government revenues. It became apparent that drastic measures of economy and financial control with their necessarily unfavorable repercussions on Chile's foreign trade were unavoidable unless some means of relieving the adverse exchange situation and of financing for the Government could be found. Consideration now is being given to the possibility of extending to Chile assistance in certain financial and economic matters similar to that recently afforded to Brazil. Accordingly, it would seem that if as a part of this assistance and cooperation Easter Island could be sold or leased for a consideration sufficient to relieve the immediate financial stringency of the Republic, such a measure would be helpful at this time. In this connection it is suggested that since the annual rental to be paid on a long-term lease of the island could hardly be set at a very large figure, from the point of view of Chile itself, an outright purchase with immediate payment would appear to be preferable.

It

file
personal

PSF
Welles

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 29, 1939

My dear Mr. President:

The Department has been informed by the American Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at Teheran that the marriage ceremonies of the Crown Prince of Iran to Her Royal Highness Princess Fawzieh, sister of the King of Egypt, will take place the middle of April, the date to be fixed in the immediate future. The Chargé d'Affaires adds that practically all countries represented at Teheran are either sending special representatives or are designating their Ministers or Chargés d'Affaires ad interim as special representatives to attend these ceremonies.

With a desire to strengthen further the relations between the United States and Iran, I beg to recommend that Mr. Cornelius Van H. Engert, at present Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at Teheran, be designated as your special representative with the rank of special envoy.

If you

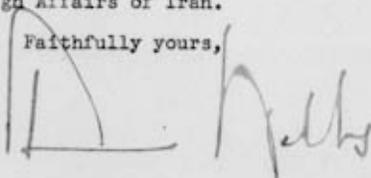
The President,

The White House.

- 2 -

If you approve the designation of Mr. Engert as special envoy upon the occasion named, I shall be pleased to notify him by telegraph, as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. H. H. H.", written in dark ink.

PSF:
Welles, Sumner

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

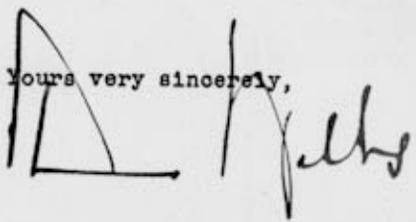
March 29, 1939

Dear Steve:

I am sending you herewith the draft I am submitting for the President's consideration of which we spoke on the telephone yesterday. I shall be grateful to you if you will see that he gets it before he leaves in order that he may take it with him to Warm Springs.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely,



Enclosure.

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

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

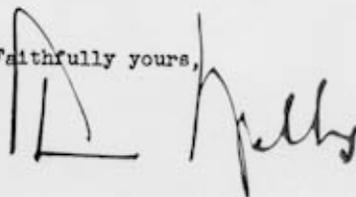
March 29, 1939

My dear Mr. President:

I am sending you herewith the draft we discussed last week which is intended to serve as a basis for fifteen minutes of the radio broadcast which you may make. I believe it follows the lines you had in mind as you indicated them to me.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. H. Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a long horizontal stroke.

Enclosure.

The President,
The White House.

DRAFT

When we take stock of the recent course of international relations, every one of us has reason for profound misgiving. I would not be candid with you if I did not tell you that in my own judgment the outlook is very dark. Within the past weeks we have witnessed the dismemberment of the free and independent nation of Czechoslovakia; we have seen its unprovoked occupation by foreign troops and we have read the proclamation declaring the assumption by the German Government of a protectorate over certain of its provinces. The legality of such action your Government has declined to recognize.

The conscience of the entire world has been profoundly shocked. Repeated and official assurances have been violated. The conception of a world order based on law, on justice, and on reason is being derided.

The chief of the government of a great people has publicly declared that force and power are the foundations of relations between states.

And every day that passes sees an ever greater piling up of armaments, an ever increasing expenditure

upon weapons of destruction although we all know that as a result of this mad competition in armaments millions of human beings, if they are not destroyed by a war, will inevitably face starvation and ruin.

Everywhere nations and peoples are asking themselves whether they too are destined to be the victims of unprovoked aggression. Is it any wonder that nowhere in the world today does any real feeling of security remain?

There has been a tendency, I think, on the part of all of us to concentrate too much on the aspects of the immediate present as it concerns us rather than to think of the ultimate consequences to this nation of a continuance of this collapse of law and order, and of decency and justice in the relations between peoples. I believe the time has come for all of us to consider in a purely objective way, leaving partiality and prejudice as well as emotion to one side, what these developments mean to the United States.

Let me review with you some of these developments of the past few years.

In the autumn of 1931 Japan invaded Manchuria, an integral part of the territory of China. While the nominally autonomous state called Manchukuo was then set up, we all know that that state is completely under the control of Japan. A blow was then given to the structure of international order of which the world has ever since felt the effects. Yet at the moment that this blow occurred many of us--probably most of us-- were saying "After all, regrettable as it is, China is eight thousand miles away. What happens there cannot affect our own lives or the welfare of our own country."

Then in 1935 came the conquest of Ethiopia by Italy. Another blow shook the structure of international security. And yet again most of our own people said "Of course it is too bad. But what goes on in a remote and uncivilized corner of distant Africa can never affect us."

Two years later Japan began the invasion of China south of the Great Wall. Fighting on an ever increasing scale continues to this day. The countries who were members of the League of Nations declared without a

dissenting voice that Japan was violating her treaty obligations not only with China but with other nations and in this verdict our own Government concurred. This time the possible effect upon our own country and upon our own national interests of this treaty violation was more widely recognized by the American people.

But still other crises were to come.

In March of the year 1938 the world saw the absorption of Austria by Germany. This was carried out under the threat of force and was marked by the imprisonment of the leaders of the Austrian Government, the suppression of many liberties, and the application of the doctrine that while Austrian assets were to be assumed, Austrian liabilities would be declined.

Then came the critical month of September 1938. when Europe came to the brink of war. The crisis passed. An agreement was reached which has subsequently been disregarded by one of the parties to it. And as a result of such disregard, a short six months later, the independent Republic of Czechoslovakia has, at least temporarily, ceased to exist.

During these past eight years we have all of us, therefore, seen ever more frequently recurring instances of the disregard by nations not only of their solemn obligations to other nations, but what is even more disastrous, the disregard by certain nations of the basic principles upon which civilization is founded.

These principles are nonintervention by one country in the internal affairs of another; the solution of international difficulties when they arise through peaceful negotiation rather than through the exercise of force, or through the threat of force; general recognition, provided governments respect their obligations to others and do not commit acts of aggression against others, of the common right of all peoples, on equal terms, to buy and to sell in the markets of the world and to have access to raw materials; and, above all else, I have in mind the principle that might does not make right.

I believe profoundly that nowhere in the world today is there any people that desires war. I am

convinced that all peoples share the passionate desire of the people of the United States to remain at peace. It is the ordinary man and woman, the average citizen, who suffers from war.

The sentiment of this country is not hostile to any other people. It is aroused against governments that show their contempt for international decency and justice, for the sanctity of the pledged word, and for every form of international cooperation based on law, and who practice a policy of might, of conquest, and of imperialism that threatens not only their neighbors but the whole structure of international order.

Let me, however, make this point very clear. While we ourselves uphold the democratic form of government as the kind of government in which we ourselves believe and by which we choose to be governed, we do not assume, and we never have assumed, the right to criticize any other people because of the form of government by which

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
WASHINGTON, D. C.
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

they themselves choose to be governed. It is against the practices of other governments, when these practices contravene the laws of humanity or when they imperil world order and consequently the maintenance of world peace, that we protest and rightfully protest.

We here in the United States have a vital interest in seeing that world peace is maintained.

We have a vital interest in seeing that the principles of international law should prevail.

Some weeks ago I stated to the members of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs that in my judgment the interests of this nation could not but be directly affected whenever the independence of some other peace-loving and decent member of the family of nations is threatened or extinguished. And the reason for that is very simple and should be clear to every one of us.

If the other nations of the world who share our beliefs in international fair dealing, and who would live, as we try to live, as good neighbors with the rest of the community of nations, are one by one dominated or conquered

by nations who believe in the policy of force and who practice the doctrine of the sword, our own security, our own independence, is thereby directly threatened.

It is because this doctrine of force is ever increasingly apparent in this world of today that we here in the United States are engaged in building up our own armament so that we can safeguard our own country and cooperate, if need be, with our neighbors on this continent to defend the security of the Western Hemisphere. But we must also remember that every time one of the peace-loving nations of the world goes under, we must correspondingly increase our own measures of self-defense.

It is for that reason that I believe the people of the United States will recognize that our present neutrality legislation should be changed. To its purpose to keep the people of the United States at peace, we can all subscribe; with its results, as experience has demonstrated, we cannot be satisfied. As it stands today, should war break out, no belligerent could buy arms, ammunition, or airplanes, and licenses for export already granted would automatically become void. This

knowledge is at once heartening to those powers who may have aggressive designs and discouraging to those who fear they may become the victims of attack. It cannot help being a factor in estimates of strength made by those who observe law and by those who would defy it. In our own interests the American people should not penalize those nations who are threatened with aggression. If war should unhappily come, they should not be refused the opportunity of purchasing arms and munitions from this country with which to resist attack.

I have said to you before, I have seen war and I hate war. The cardinal principle in the foreign policy of my Administration is to keep the United States at peace.

For that very reason, to keep the United States at peace, we should make it possible for other peace-loving nations who are the victims of brutal attack to obtain in this country the munitions and the supplies which they require to fight off aggression. We cannot be blind to the fact that if such an attack succeeds in first crushing them, it may well later threaten us.

For the same reason, to prevent the United States from being forced into war, this country should not only make known its abomination of the doctrine of lawless force, it should also be prepared to undertake such acts "short of war" as may be practicable against such nations as practice lawless force.

Finally, and for the same reason, to keep the United States itself safe from attack, we must, so long as brute force runs unchecked in the world, maintain our military and naval strength at such a level as to make it possible for us successfully to defend ourselves from the attack of any other nation or of any other possible combination of nations.

In common with men and women throughout the world, the people of the United States today join in voicing that age-old prayer "Give us peace in our time, O Lord."

PSF: Walker

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Warm Springs, Ga.,
April 4, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE

Please read enclosed from
Bill Phillips and return to me.

It occurs to me that it
might be a good thing to send
a copy of my "curtain lecture"
to Colonna in confidence to
Phillips, Bullitt and Kennedy.
Also I think we might send a
copy of your memorandum of it
to Halifax and Chamberlain for
their confidential information.
It all ties in with the current
picture.

F. D. R.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*BSF
Willes*

Warm Springs, Ga.,
April 4, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE
FOR PREPARATION OF REPLY
FOR MY SIGNATURE.

F. D. R.

Letter dated March 27, 1939 from
Spruille Braden, Ambassador to
Colombia.

file

*PST
Welles*

THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

April 19, 1939

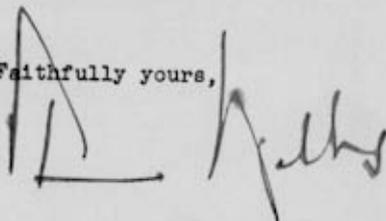
My dear Mr. President:

I have today received a telegram from Jules Henry who you may remember was Counselor of the French Embassy here for twenty years and has now recently been appointed French Ambassador to Brazil. His message reads as follows:

"Please convey to the President my warmest congratulations and deepest gratitude for his splendid message which constitutes the only hope we have had for a long time."

Believe me

Faithfully yours,



The President,
The White House.

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

April 28, 1939

file

My dear Mr. President:

The Department has now received a telegram from Norman Armour gladly accepting your offer of appointment as Ambassador to Argentina, and likewise a telegram from Douglas Jenkins accepting your offer of appointment as Minister to Bolivia. Norman Armour has asked that he be permitted to express to you his "very deep appreciation of this further mark of confidence on the part of the President".

Will you let me know when you have had an opportunity of reaching a decision with regard to the new appointments which will have to be made to Chile and to Peru? Under present conditions I think it would be very wise to get our new ambassadors to Santiago and Lima as soon as possible.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

R. F. Welles

The President,
The White House.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

PSF
Welles

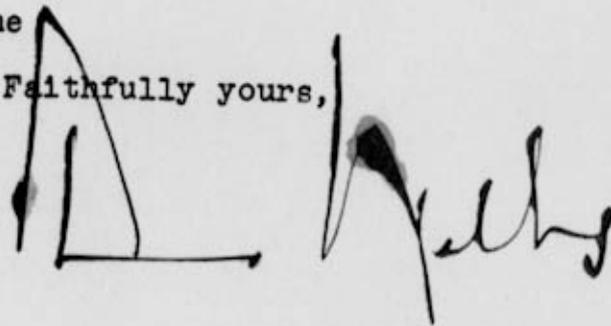
April 29, 1939

My dear Mr. President:

I received this morning from a friend in Paris the two clippings from French newspapers which I attach herewith. I think they will amuse you. The caricature of Hitler and yourself is, I think, particularly to the point.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

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

The President,
The White House.

SOBRE, VÉGÉTARIEN ET TOUT...



*file
press mal
jean
eloh*



— ...et je ne fume pas non plus.

★
TOUT FAIRE
CHAIR

FRANKLIN

par

Jean BASTIA



*Monsieur Roosevelt, homme sage,
Auteur d'un illustre message
De douceur et de calme empreint,
Porte un prénom fameux : Franklin.*

*En onomancie on affirme
Que le nom est comme une firme
Au pouvoir caché mais certain
Qui marque un être et son destin.*

*Cette science est fantaisiste.
Je n'y crois point et n'y insiste
Point parce qu'elle définit
Que « Benito » vient de « béni »,*

*Ou que cinq lettres ont en elles
Dans « Adolf » vertus paternelles,
Non !... mais, enfin, je suis enclin
A croire au prénom de « Franklin ».*

*Ce Roosevelt, qui se prénomme
Comme s'appelait le Bonhomme,
N'a-t-il pas, lui aussi, capté
Des forces d'électricité ?*

*Dans un jour extraordinaire
Retrouvé le paratonnerre ?
Que bien inspiré le parrain
Qui, donc, l'a prénommé Franklin ?*

PSF Welles

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 3, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE
TO READ AND RETURN

F. D. R.

Letter of April 18, 1939 from
Ambassador Bullitt enclosing
memoranda from Charles B.
McDaniel, Jr.

PSF: Welles

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PRIVATE

May 4, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE

On the question of countervailing duties versus Italian cocoons, please tell the Italian Government about it quickly. Thirty days notice is ample. The Secretary of the Treasury is about to go to Alcatraz. If the Jury disagrees he will be impeached in the Senate. Save him -- and me! Put it through PDQ.

F. D. R.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 8, 1939

*PSF
Wells*

Mary-file

My dear Mr. President:

The Department has received from O. N. I. certain information with regard to the activities in San Francisco of Captain Wiedemann. I believe this information will be of interest to you and I am consequently attaching a copy of the pertinent memorandum.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

Enclosure:
Memorandum.

The President,
The White House.

COPY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"4 May 1939

"One Otto SCHROEDER, whose father was, at one time, stationed at the German Naval Station, Kiel, Germany, is an engineer on board the S.S.BALTIMORE, plying between Baltimore, Maryland, and the West Coast. He claims personal acquaintance with Captain Fritz WIEDEMANN, whom he contacts when the S.S.BALTIMORE reaches San Francisco.

"Last night, SCHROEDER told Informant the details of certain German and Russian developments which appeared in today's papers, claiming he had obtained the information from Captain WIEDEMANN during his last contact with him. He further stated that Captain Wiedemann expects to come to Washington in the near future to take over the office of the German Charge d'Affaires, and that SCHACHT is to be the German Ambassador in the Washington Embassy. He stated that Captain WIEDEMANN is making strenuous efforts, through social contacts, to enlist the support of Ex-President HOOVER, and that he will accomplish this, in some means, through Mr. HOOVER's son."

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*ASF
Welles.
1*

Letter to Pres
From Sumner Welles
May 11, 1939

In re-Pres. memo of May 10th
about the British Gov. making an
announcement about Palestine--attaches
letter from Kennedy of May 10th. Also
telegram to Brandeis from Henry Montor.

See Palestine folder-Foreign File-Drawer 1-1939

~~To-day!~~

RSF
Willes

THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 11, 1939

Personal

My dear Miss LeHand:

As you remember, the President - and I hope Mrs. Roosevelt - is coming out to dine with us informally on Wednesday, May 17th.

Will you ask him and let me know whether it would be agreeable to him if we asked the British Ambassador and Lady Lindsay, the Swiss Minister and Madame Peter, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Davis, and Mr. Pendleton Turner to dine that night. If there are any other people whom he would like to see, we would of course be only too happy to have them and I should be grateful if he would make any suggestions he wishes.

Many thanks to you and believe me

Yours very sincerely,

Miss Marguerite A. LeHand,
Personal Secretary to the President,
The White House.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 15, 1939.

My dear Mr. President:

The Argentine Ambassador called to see me this afternoon and left with me the text of a telegram he had just received from his Government which in translation reads as follows:

"In the name of the President of the Republic I request you to make known to President Roosevelt the great pleasure with which this Government has seen his attitude with regard to the importation of Argentine canned beef which is unanimously interpreted as a gesture of good will on the part of the Government of the United States for the better solution of the commercial problems which exist between the United States and this country."

I have told the Ambassador I would take great pleasure in transmitting this message to you.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

W. H. H. Wells

The President,

The White House.

*file
Wells*

*PSF
Wells*

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF SUPPLIES AND ACCOUNTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

In reply address not the signer of this
letter, but the Bureau of Supplies and
Accounts and
Refer to No.

L4/JJ-56(10)

15 May 1939

Hon. A J Sabath
House of Representatives
Washington D C

My dear Mr. Sabath:

As you may have gathered from matter appearing in the press, the Navy recently purchased from an Argentine Company approximately 48,000 pounds of corned beef packed in Argentina and imported into this country in competition with Argentine beef packed by American-owned plants operating in that country. In at least one article, it has been made to appear that the Navy, in purchasing foreign corned beef, might become involved in a scandal similar to the so-called "Embalmed Beef Controversy" which agitated the country shortly after the close of the Spanish American War, it being charged that our soldiers in Cuba and elsewhere were served with putrid meats of foreign origin.

I have gone into the history of Spanish American War beef inquiry, and while the record in that case is most voluminous I find nothing to indicate that the War Department purchased foreign meats at that time, and a very careful reading of the testimony indicates that the meats used by the Army in the Spanish American War came from United States packing houses located in Chicago, Omaha, and Kansas City.

The report of the Beef Court of Inquiry is contained in War Department General Order No. 91, of May 6, 1899, publishing the proceedings and findings of an Army Court of Inquiry appointed by the President to inquire into the subject of beef supplied during the operations in Cuba and Porto Rico.

In this connection, it is interesting to find testimony to the effect that, contrary to any belief that foreign-packed meats were obtained by the United States Government at that time, the testimony shows that meats packed by the United States packers actually were being shipped to South America and other foreign lands during the same period.

Should you care to pursue this subject further, I suggest that you refer to the Army and Navy Journal, Volume 36. 1898-1899.

Very sincerely,



RAY SPEAR
Rear Admiral SC USN
Paymaster General of the Navy

CANNED CORNED BEEF FOR THE
NAVY

Price

1. South American canned corned beef is available to the Navy at a much lower cost than canned corned beef made on a special order basis in the United States.

2. The low bid of the Argentine Meat Producers Co-operative to supply 48,000 pounds of such canned meat to the Navy was only 9.73 cents per pound, ex-duty, as compared with the lowest domestic bid of 23.61 cents.

3. Award of the contract to the lowest domestic bidder would have cost the taxpayers more than 2 1/2 times the expenditure for the Argentine product.

The "Buy-American Act"

1. This Act never was intended to force the Government to purchase domestic products regardless of cost.

2. The letter and spirit of that Act have been carried out faithfully by providing a differential of 100 percent in favor of domestic products on purchases under \$100 and a differential of at least 25 percent on purchases in excess of \$100, as a guide in making government purchases.

3. Even

3. Even with the customs duty (which goes into the Treasury) added to the low Argentine bid to supply a small quantity of canned corned beef to the Navy, making the price 15.73 cents per pound, the differential amounts to more than 50 percent, twice as much as the differential used as a guide under the Buy-American Act for purchases over \$100.

4. The proposed amendment to the Navy Appropriation Bill is in substance a proposal to amend the Buy-American Act and should be considered as such rather than in connection with a particular appropriation bill.

Quality

1. It is no reflection upon the quality of our cattle that we cannot afford to use them for canned corned beef.

2. In the United States all the higher grades of beef are sold at relatively high prices in the fresh meat market; other grades are used principally in ground meat products, except that occasionally they are used to fill Government orders for canned corned beef.

3. In South America, on the other hand, good cuts of beef as well as trimmings are used for corning
and

and canning, since the demand for South American fresh, chilled or frozen beef does not use up available supplies.

4. The use of higher grade American cuts to produce corned beef of a quality equal to that offered by the South American packers would result in a further substantial increase in price.

Other Considerations

1. Since there is no commercial production of canned corned beef in the United States, any such beef supplied by domestic packers to the Government from plants in this country must be made at relatively high cost on a special order basis.

2. Without helping American cattle producers, the proposed amendment would harm our trade relations with Argentina and other countries.

3. Government purchases of canned corned beef will help to provide South American countries with purchasing power for American products needed or desired in those countries, without detriment to American cattle producers or the meat-packing industry.

BF
Welles

Letter to President
From Sumner Welles
May 16, 1939

In re-Welles conversation with Father Carroll, Asst
to Monsignor Ready who gave him message from the
Pope to the effect that his belief is that the Peace
of Europe is gravely endangered etc etc.

See--Italy folder-Foreign file-Drawer 1-1939



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 17, 1939

*PSF
Welles*

File - Personal

My dear Mr. President:

The Venezuelan Ambassador called to see me this morning. The Ambassador said that in his last conversation with you, you had expressed the desire to see Venezuela once more and to make a visit to that country. The Ambassador told me that he had communicated your statement to the President of Venezuela and that he had now received a message from President Lopez Contreras saying that nothing would give the Government and people of Venezuela greater satisfaction than to have you visit Venezuela and that he earnestly hoped that you would find it possible to make such a visit in the near future. I told the Ambassador that I would be happy to transmit this message to you.

You may be interested to know that the Ambassador also told me that you were the popular hero of Venezuela. He said that when he was recently in Caracas he went to a moving picture which showed a news reel of yourself

The President,

The White House.

-2-

and that when you appeared on the screen the entire audience rose and applauded. He said that the performance was merely a routine performance at the theater and that when he inquired about it, was told that the same demonstration took place at every performance of the film.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

R. Kelly

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PSF
State
Welles

May 18, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE

I have found the various memoranda I had made in regard to this list. I think in Class Four I will go along with Benton on your statement that he has really greatly improved. I am told Ralph C. Busser will be sixty-five on January third next. His promotion, therefore, would be made merely in order to give him a higher pension. That is not done.

Class Five - I will O.K. DeCourcy but please let me know more about Childs' foreign wife and family. I have my doubts.

Class Six - I do not think I can go along with Hodgdon. His trouble has not been confined to the episode in Washington and if he were in the Army or the Navy he would not be promoted.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

-2-

Class Seven - Gerald A. Drew - I gather that he is best known in the Mayflower and Shoreham bars. Is he honestly the type you want to promote in the Service?

Class Eight - Willard Galbraith - What about the story of his behavior in Honduras? You might let me have your reports on this.

Frederick P. Latimer - It seems rather definitely known that several years ago while in Helsingfors he talked publicly about his Government being in the hands of Communists, headed by the undersigned.

F. D. R.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 15, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR
UNDER SECRETARY WELLES:

On this list of recommended promotions I seriously question:

Class Four - Benton and Busser. *get better - new better.*

Class Five - Childs and DeCourcy. *2 days ok*

Class six - Hodgdon. *miss in White*

Class seven- Drew. *Woman - Berlin pins - dit.*

Class eight- Galbraith and Latimer. *SW says good - in Dept.*

You might bring Messersmith and Howland Shaw over with you to talk with me. *good man*

F. D. R. *good affection*

Ene.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 4, 1939.

Why is not Robert F. Kalley promoted *not good reports on*
Dis-appointing
day, good
list
to Class II?

Why is not W. Perry George, Consul *Sits on*
trouble on 4
note problems
at Bordeaux, on this list?

No promotion for nearly 10 years.

Also, Paul C. Squire, Consul at Venice.
No promotion since 1930. *live in [] should point*
reparations [] will follow

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 15, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE

I know you will not mind the fact that I have done a little checking on my own hook on the cost of living in Caracas! I find from American business sources that it is perfectly true that the cost of living is very high but that it is estimated at from 70% to 80% higher than in the United States in terms of American dollars.

If this be true, the lady who lives on \$2,000 a year here ought to be able to live in Caracas on from \$3,400 to \$3,600 a year. If to this you add the bonus of an extra \$1,000, as suggested, it would bring the total pay and allowances for a year to from \$4,400 to \$4,600.

I was, therefore, not far wrong — and was actually a bit on the liberal side when I suggested to you a total remuneration of \$4,800!

F. D. R.

*file
pres mem*

*PST
State
Willis*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 26, 1939

My dear Mr. President:

The Department has given very careful attention to the points raised in your memorandum of June 6 regarding the assignment to Venezuela of Miss Annita M. Ker of the Library of Congress. Following a further study of the case with a view to possible reduction in the compensation proposed for Miss Ker, your authorization of this detail has been communicated to the interested officials and to Miss Ker with the indication that her total remuneration while in Venezuela will be at the rate of \$4880 per annum, which includes her basic compensation of \$3000 per annum, plus an allowance of \$240 per month (\$2880 per annum) for quarters and subsistence. Miss Ker sailed for Caracas on June 16 last.

I was much interested in the information contained in your memorandum of June 15 to the effect that the cost of living in Caracas had been estimated by an independent

source

The President,

The White House.

source to be from 70 percent to 80 percent higher than in the United States in terms of American dollars. As you indicated, the per annum rate of approximately \$4880 exceeds a straight increase of 70 percent to 80 percent in Miss Ker's salary in the United States. However, if Miss Ker were to be detailed temporarily away from her regular post of duty for service within the United States, she would receive an allowance of \$5.00 per diem under the Standardized Travel Regulations during such a detail, or in other words an allowance at the rate of approximately \$1800 per annum. If this allowance were augmented by the lower figure mentioned in your memorandum (70 percent), it would total \$3060 per annum, whereas the amount authorized for Miss Ker in addition to her regular salary was \$180 less than that, or \$2880 per annum.

In revising the amount of additional compensation, the Department took into consideration the fact that Miss Ker was able to make arrangements to give up her apartment in Washington for the period of her absence and hence will have no financial responsibilities in the United States while she is outside this country. When considering further requests for services to be performed in Venezuela by officers who do maintain homes or families in the United States, I believe that those

factors

factors may make it necessary to augment the total compensation to a greater degree than in the present case.

A systematic effort is made to keep the information in the files of the Department accurate with regard to the cost of living in foreign cities where diplomatic and consular representation is maintained, and the data concerning the cost of living in Caracas appear, in general, to be consistent with the information you provided in your memorandum of June 15. I am, however, causing a new investigation to be made in order to have completely up-to-date information concerning the cost of living in this exceedingly expensive post.

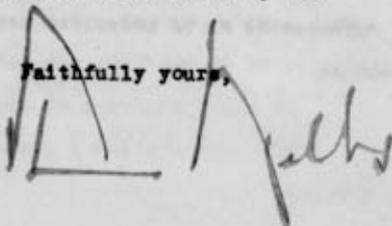
Regarding Miss Ker's qualifications for the work to be undertaken in Venezuela, I am informed by the Library of Congress that she is particularly well fitted by reason of her library experience, her intimate knowledge of the Spanish language and her sustained interest in the broad field of Hispanic-American history and literature. Miss Ker is a graduate of Wellesley (A.B. 1930), where she took honors in Spanish and English literature. She has had seven years of Government service, specializing in the treatment of Hispanic material, and she has in addition done special library work on two occasions in Mexico City.

In

In 1931 she was engaged under the Harvy Bassler Foundation in collecting historical and bibliographic material in Mexico, and in 1936 she obtained a fellowship from the American Library Association to compile a guide to Mexican public documents. She has also instructed librarians from the other American republics who at various times have come to study the methods and organization of the Library of Congress. It is my understanding that these experiences, together with her fluent knowledge of Spanish, motivated the Venezuelan Government in making a specific request for her services in connection with the pending reorganization of the National Library in Caracas.

With regard to your comment concerning the effect of assignments under the Act of May 3, 1939, Public No. 63, on Miss Ker's prospects for promotion, I take pleasure in stating that the Library confirms your understanding that successful performance of duties on behalf of a foreign government will be taken into consideration. I hope that her work will prove entirely satisfactory to the authorities of the National Library and that upon its conclusion a favorable report may be volunteered by the Venezuelan Government.

Faithfully yours,



*PSF
Summer Welles -
(1)*

June 24, 1939

**Memo for Gen. Watson
From Summer Welles**

**Attaches conf despatches from Amb Biddle marked
for the President**

No. 1069, dated June 1, 1939 concerning the possible reopening of negotiations affecting Danzig and the Corridor;

No. 1072, dated June 3, 1939 reporting the substance of a conversation with the Polish Ambassador to Great Britain on Anglo-German differences:

No 1074, dated June 3, 1939 concerning status of Polish attempts to obtain British financial assistance.

No. 1075, dated June 3, 1939 concerning reaction in official Polish circles to Molotov's address of May 31, 1939.

See Poland folder-Foreign File--Drawer 1--1939

*PSF
Sumner Welles
1*

June 27, 1939

Memo to Gen. Watson
From Sumner Welles

Encloses Ambassador Biddle's despatch of
June 3, 1939.
In re-observations of Biddle on his recent
talks between the General Staffs of Poland
and France and of Poland and Great Britain.

See--Poland folder-Foreign File-Drawer 1-1939

BF
Welles
1

Letter to President
From Sumner Welles

June 28, 1939

In re-Presidents desire to hold meeting of Executive Committee of the Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees which he took up with Myron Taylor as the President wished. Attaches Taylor's reaction on meeting to him for the Pres. information.

See Palestine folder-Foreign file-Drawer 1-1939