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Box 11; Folder = Correspondence: Mussolini, Benito, 1933-1937
IL CAPO DEL GOVERNO

My dear Mr. President,

Ambassador, how my honor to me, with
my credentials, your very kind letter of May 14th,
and the copy of the inaugural address received
on your induction into the Presidency of the United States
that you have inscribed to me.

I wish to express to you my most sincere thanks and
appreciation for your kindness. I will keep your
address in my library among my most valuable
remembrances as a token of your friendship.

I am very glad that you
have chosen as Ambassador of the U.S.of A.
to Italy am the friend of yours and I can
assume you that Mr. King has won from
the very first moment my personal esteem.

The relations of the United States
and they were very cordial and friendly and I firmly believe and confidently hope that they will continue during this mission, to grow closer and stronger with each succeeding year.

I hope of meeting you some day in the near future in order to have the opportunity to discuss with you the outstanding world problems in which United States and Italy are mutually interested.

With this hope, I avail myself of the occasion to renew to you the assurance of my highest and most affectionate consideration.

I am, my dear Mr. Frument

Very sincerely yours

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Resident of the United States Washington  Mussolini
The Honorable
Franklin Roosevelt
President of the United States
the White House
Washington, D.C.
July 7, 1933.

Dear Colonel McIntyre:

The attached letter addressed to the President by Mussolini in reply to the President's communication of May 14, 1933, was delivered in the Department this morning by a Secretary of the Italian Embassy. The Secretary inquired when the letter would be placed before the President since it would be necessary to reply to Rome to that effect. I stated that I believed the message could be brought to the President's attention today.

Accordingly, I trust that it may be possible for the letter, which is a simple acknowledgment of the President's above-mentioned communication of May 14, expressive of the writer's good will, of his belief that Italo-American relationships will become even more friendly than they are at present, if possible, and of his hope of meeting the President in the near future, to be placed before the President.

PC:JP:JEW
July 29, 1937.

My dear Signor Mussolini:

I have waited for many months
to thank you for your gracious and much appreciated
letter to me, which I found on my return from South
America last December. I have delayed writing you
because through all these months I have been hoping
that the world situation would clarify sufficiently
for me to discuss with you measures looking toward
the stabilization of peace among nations.

But, unfortunately the situation
today seems no clearer than before, and, indeed, in
some aspects the drift of events has been toward
and not away from an ultimate crisis.

I have been gratified in read-
ing of your statements in favor of the principles
of reduction of armament. As you know, the Secretary
of State has had my full support in his effective
efforts toward the increase of international trade
and the lowering of barriers against trade.

Nevertheless, all of these
efforts, even if they are joined by additional
nations, and even if a greater total of world trade
results in the coming years, will not prove a com-
pletely effective guarantee of international peace
if world armament among the nations continues on
its present scale.
The two things must go hand in hand. It seems clear to me that if the nations can agree on armament reduction, even if it be in the form of a progressive reduction over a period of years, they can far more effectively discuss practical instruments for reduction of trade barriers, thus building up employment in industry to take the place of employment in armament. And I recognize that as a part of the discussion of increasing trade, every consideration should be given to a more ready access to raw materials' markets for those nations which in themselves do not produce the raw materials necessary to industry.

I am confident, my dear Duce, that you share with me the fear that the trend of the present international situation is ominous to peace. And I am confident that you share with me the desire to turn the course of the world toward stabilizing peace. I have often wished that I might talk with you frankly and in person because from such a meeting great good might come. But we both realize the great difficulties that stand in the way — international difficulties as well as the distances of the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

I was very happy to learn that my youngest son, John, had the privilege of meeting you last week. I had charged him with conveying to you my very warm regards. Some day you and I must and shall meet in person.

Believe me, with every good wish,

Faithfully yours,

His Excellency
Signor Benito Mussolini,
Chief of the Government,
Rome, Italy.
P.S. This is your birthday and I send you wishes for many happy returns of the day.