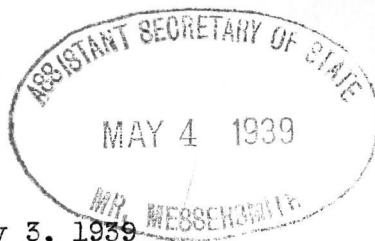


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ONE SOUTH WILLIAM STREET
NEW YORK



May 3, 1939

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

In transmitting herewith a collect of material on the international situation, dating from the end of January through mid-April, I realize that I am running the danger of carrying coals to Newcastle and that the very fluctuations in the balance of forces can turn any appraisal into an anachronism. To overcome these risks, I have attempted to isolate and illumine the perduring characteristics of the opposing forces and issues, and these in turn are presented herein against the background of the convergent challenge to Western Civilization which, since the check to the Osmanlis in 1682 had been progressing unhaunted by the prior recurrent fears of an end to the secular process of life and growth. Incidentally, in connection with the concluding memorandum, the possibility mentioned therein of a peace gesture by the President was not based on any inside information on the President's action the following day, but merely a conjecture from the implications inherent in the situation.

I trust that for all the admitted indeterminacy and uncertainty, the analyses and interpretations will appear to you as being more than ephemeral.

Yours sincerely,

Admiral Sack

Hon. George Messersmith,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.