

October 5, 1938

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Deeply appreciative of the great and timely efforts made by the President and the Department of State to prevent World War in the recent crisis, I thank him and you for the Good Neighbor Policy among nations.

I desire to put on the records of the Department of State, with great brevity, my impressions with regard to the immediate future.

It seems to me that the Munich agreement, which attempts to correct some of the unhappy consequences of submitting unwilling minorities to the rule of other nationalities, opens the way to international agreement for peace. I rejoice that it seems to be the disposition of the leaders there represented to establish peace on a basic of justice to such minorities. I heartily rejoice that the State Department realizes so fully that peace must be obtained by positive concrete action and based upon righteousness, honesty, unselfishness and the unselfish Good Neighbor Policy.

The enslavement of the mass of mankind within any nation by the monopoly of land holding, or by unfair treatment of those who cultivate the soil, cannot be continued without disturbing the
peace

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The Secretary of State

Washington, D. C.

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peace of the nations who practice it and the peace of mankind. When the products of the cities are controlled by the unthinking forces of selfishness or monopoly to the disadvantage of those who cultivate the land, instability follows. This has been manifest even in this land where all human rights are guaranteed.

I have faith in the honesty of the assurances given the world by Hitler on behalf of the German people. I do not believe that the German people have the will to war, nor do I believe that the Italian, French, or British people have the will to war, or ever will except against arbitrary and unreasonable tyranny on the part of those who would oppress and wrong them through brute force.

I enclose a copy of an address which I made on the floor of the United States Senate on December 18, 1923, in which the evidence was submitted showing the conspiracy of the Romanoff Imperial Government of Russia to make war on Germany, and which resulted so disastrously to the Romanoff dynasty.

I enclose also a volume called "Neutral Committees and Scholars on the War Guilt, Two Questions asked by Senator Robert L. Owen, U. S. A., and Answers Thereto," which grew out of a letter which I wrote to Dr. H. H. Aall, Secretary of the Neutral Commission, Anton Schjothsgate II, Oslo, Norway, a copy of which I enclose. In this letter I asked the questions whether treaties following the World War placed the war guilt exclusively on certain nations and whether the evidence justified this charge. Nineteen historians from five neutral countries (Holland three, Switzerland four,

four,

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four, Finland four, Sweden five, Norway three) answered "yes" to the first question and "no" to the second.

This testimony and a reasonable knowledge of the German people should give assurance that they have no desire by brute force to conquer the world; to be dishonest, selfish, or unneighborly. We have a right to believe that the German people, the Italian people, the French people, and the British people are in accord with the faith of the American people in the doctrine of righteousness and on this foundation the world must find its peace under the God of Righteousness and Justice and Mercy.

Yours very respectfully,

Robert L. Owen

RLO/eg

Three enclosures