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THE COUNSELOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

November 3, 1938.

Dear Senator Owen:

I thank you very much for your kindness in sending me a copy of your letter to Secretary Hull.

My thought is that the Japanese policy would be what it is if the Japanese Government had never heard of the Monroe Doctrine. Even though the Japanese should rapidly and successfully apply that policy, I do not suppose there is any thought of our Government trying to protect its interests by the use of military force. Assuming that there will be almost no limit to the execution of the Japanese purpose, I am wondering whether you believe that the nations which are injuriously affected could wisely apply some economic pressure. I will certainly not quote you should you find time to give me your opinion as to what, if anything, this country might do should there be an unsatisfactory reply to Secretary Hull's recent note to the Japanese Government.

With high regard, I am

Yours very sincerely,

The Honorable
Robert L. Owen,
2400 Sixteenth Street,
Washington, D. C.

