

At Warm Springs, Ga.,
December 2, 1935.

My dear Dodd:-

I am glad to know from yours of October thirty-first that I was right in assuming that there had been no real change in German policy for the last few months. It seems clear that from the point of view of the group which now controls the destinies of the German people, their policy is succeeding admirably. Germany got an acceptance, passive though it may have been, of her rearmament by land and sea. Germany has kept out of the Italian situation by resigning from Geneva. Germany seems to be staving off actual bankruptcy through the tricky Schacht policies which win him the admiration of the international bankers.

I wish I could talk with you at length in regard to the Neutrality situation. If you had been here I do not think that you would have felt the Senate Bill last August was an unmitigated evil. The crux of the matter lies in the deep question of allowing some discretion to the Chief Executive. Quite aside from any connection with the League, the President should have some discretion. For example, if some European power were to seek, by force of arms, a raw material source in South America, we should have to take sides and might, without going to war ourselves, assist the South American nation with supplies of one kind or another. Complete stoppage of all arms material

in the broadest sense in the case of a European conflict can be attained, and last summer's law tends in that direction. Meanwhile, the country is being fairly well educated, and I hope that next January I can get an even stronger law, leaving, however, some authority to the President.

I do not know that the United States can save civilization but at least by our example we can make people think and give them the opportunity of saving themselves. The trouble is that the people of Germany, Italy and Japan are not given the privilege of thinking.

As ever yours,

Honorable William E. Dodd,
American Embassy,
Berlin,
Germany.