

C.F.

August 15, 1945

Office of Chief of
Council for Prosecution
of Axis Criminality

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I was awfully glad to hear from you and have been glad to pass along your memorandum with reference to the trails of the German war criminals along to the President. He has asked me to be sure and thank you for your thoughtfulness in letting him have the benefit of your views on this important question.

I do not believe he has had an opportunity to go over it as yet, because, as you know, things have been very unsettled since his return from the conference. We are all hoping that matters will resolve themselves before so very long.

The President has asked me to send you his best wishes, in which I join.

Sincerely yours,

MATTHEW J. CONNELLY
Secretary to the President



The Honorable George S. Messersmith* 496
American Embassy
Mexico, D.F.

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x 325-B

AIR MAIL



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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AMERICAN EMBASSY

México, D.F., August 9, 1945.

My dear Mr. Connelly:

I had with me for several days Commander Horsky and Lieutenant Siegel of Justice Jackson's staff, who were taking my testimony or rather statements for use by Justice Jackson and his staff in connection with the trials of the German war criminals. While they were here I expressed to them some views which I had with respect to the way in which these trials should be carried through. In view, however, of the importance of the matter they thought it might be useful if I would put my thoughts in a memorandum, which I have done. I am sending you herewith a copy of the memorandum which I prepared for the information of the President and of Secretary Byrnes and Justice Jackson. I am sending the original of the memorandum herewith. It is quite long and I do not know whether the President will have the time to read it but as I know he must be very much interested in this matter and as it is of such primary importance, I would appreciate your reading the memorandum and bringing it to the President's attention. If the President is not able to read it or if you think that he should not read it, I leave this matter entirely in your discretion but I would like the substance of the views contained therein being brought to the President's attention.

I am sending this memorandum to you instead of directly to the President as I know how tremendously occupied he is and I am sure that this method of transmission will serve the desired purpose.

My views expressed in this memorandum may seem rather drastic but I am convinced as to the soundness thereof and I see from the papers this morning that it has already been agreed upon that witnesses will not be called in the trials, which, as I brought out in the memorandum hereto attached, is so important.

With

The Honorable
Mathew Connelly,
Secretary to the President,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.



AIR MAIL

-2-

With all good wishes, I am,
Cordially and faithfully yours,

George S. Messersmith

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. S. Messersmith", written in a cursive style. A long, thin horizontal line is drawn across the signature from the right side.

Enclosure

