

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.,
January 31st, 1939.

No. 116.

My Lord,

230/2.

I have the honour with reference to my telegram No. 48 of January 26th to transmit to you herewith the text of the letter addressed to the "New York Times" by Mr. Henry L. Stimson, the former Secretary of State, advocating the raising of the United States Government's embargo on the export of war material to Spain.

2. As stated in my telegram under reference, there is no reason to suppose that the United States authorities are likely to depart from their present policy and despite the vigorous agitation from Spanish Government sympathisers in this country, the question of raising the embargo is likely to remain an academic one. There is naturally strong opposition on the part of the influential Catholic bodies to any modification of the embargo and unbiased opinion seems to be generally agreed that, apart from the fact that to raise the embargo at this stage would have little practical effect on the situation in Spain, it would not be in the interests/

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The Right Honourable

The Viscount Halifax, K. G.,

etc., etc., etc.

INDEX

interests of this country to take any such action.

3. Recent events in Spain have in fact provided the "isolationists" with another opportunity to emphasise the dangers of the United States becoming entangled in matters which do not primarily concern them. Senator Reynolds, a Democratic member of the Foreign Relations Committee took the occasion of a speech in the Senate on January 25th by Senator Nye in favour of lifting the Spanish embargo, to make a long harangue on the text "America should attend to the duties of America for Americans and keep hands off the affairs of the outside world", and in the course of his remarks singled out Great Britain for special criticism on account of its habitual readiness to make use of the United States to serve its own ends.

4. Very similar sentiments were expressed on the following day in the House of Representatives when Mr. Hamilton Fish, a Republican, in a speech opposing the raising of the Spanish embargo declared, "If the President or anyone else tries to get us into a foreign war it is our duty to see to it that he does not succeed".

5. Finally Mr. Lippman in an article - of which a copy is enclosed herein - in the "New York Tribune" of January 26th points out the difficulty

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for America of reconciling a policy of remaining at peace and of "seeing righteousness prevail" throughout the world. He argues that the United States Government should concentrate their interest on the two areas which are of prime concern to them - the Atlantic and the Pacific - and should not allow themselves to become involved in other parts of the world where no vital American interests are at stake.

I have the honour to be,

with the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,

'SGD) V.A.L. HALLST

H.M. Chargé d'Affaires.