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BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 2nd, 1940.

No. 304.

Sir,

I have the honour, under instructions from His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to enquire whether, if Spain and Portugal should become involved in hostilities, the United States Government would be good enough to undertake the protection of persons, property and interests for whose protection His Majesty's Ambassadors in Spain and Portugal, and consular officers under their superintendnce, are normally responsible.

Should the United States Government be willing to undertake the above charges, I am to request that the United States diplomatic and consular officers in Spain and Portugal may be authorized to act accordingly, and concert in advance with their British colleagues the necessary arrangements in the event of the United States mission (a) remaining at the capital, or (b) evacuating it if the Government concerned has to do so.

I have the honour to be,

with the highest consideration,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

(Sgd.) LOTHIAN.

The Honourable  
Cordell Hull,  
Secretary of State of the  
United States,  
Washington, D.C.

NMB:FRHM:ACEM:KIP