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“Respectfully,

“FRANCIS BIDDLE
Acting Attorney General”

VIII. ASSISTANCE TO THE SOVIET UNION

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOVIET OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS OF THE U. S. S. R.

(Dept. of State Bulletin, Vol. V, No. 120, Oct. 11, 1941)

Careful comparison of the language of the German announcement made in Berlin on October 8, 1941, by DNB, official German news agency, and that actually contained in the President's letter of introduction of Mr. Harriman to Mr. Stalin, is invited. When such a comparison is made, the propaganda objectives of the Nazi action become very clear.

The President's letter reads as follows:

“MY DEAR MR. STALIN:

“This note will be presented to you by my friend Averell Harriman, whom I have asked to be head of our delegation to Moscow.

“Mr. Harriman is well aware of the strategic importance of your front and will, I know, do everything that he can to bring the negotiations in Moscow to a successful conclusion.

“Harry Hopkins has told me in great detail of his encouraging and satisfactory visits with you. I can't tell you how thrilled all of us are because of the gallant defense of the Soviet armies.

“I am confident that ways will be found to provide the material and supplies necessary to fight Hitler on all fronts, including your own.

"I want particularly to take this occasion to express my great confidence that your armies will ultimately prevail over Hitler and to assure you of our great determination to be of every possible material assistance.

"Yours very sincerely,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT"

IX. ARMING OF AMERICAN-FLAG SHIPS

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

DELIVERED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DURING HEARINGS ON H. J. RES. 237

(Dept. of State Bulletin, Vol. V, No. 121, Oct. 18, 1941)

The purpose of this bill is to repeal section 6 of the Neutrality Act of 1939 prohibiting the arming of our merchant vessels engaged in foreign commerce. The provisions of this section had their origin in section 10 of the act of 1937, which had made it unlawful for American vessels engaged in commerce with a "belligerent" state to be armed. The act of 1939 broadened that provision by making it unlawful for an American vessel engaged in commerce "with any foreign state" to be armed. This makes it impossible for American merchant vessels to defend themselves on the high seas against danger from lawless forces seeking world-domination.

The neutrality acts did not remotely contemplate limiting the steps to be taken by this country in self-defense, especially were there to develop situations of serious and immediate danger to the United States and to this hemisphere. There was never any thought or intention to aban-