My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have your letter of November 27 regarding the question whether the preparation for and launching of the present war can be considered a war crime. I agree with you that the question merits careful study.

Mr. Pell, our representative on the United Nations War Crimes Commission, has been informed that this Government is not prepared at this time to express an opinion on the subject and that accordingly he should state to the Commission that he is not now prepared to vote on the matter. He has also been instructed to endeavor to have the vote by the Commission postponed.

Officers of the Department will be glad to consult further on the matter with officers of the War Department at any time.

I myself shall be most happy to discuss the question with you at such time as may be agreeable to you.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

The Honorable

Henry L. Stimson,
Secretary of War.