Berlin, Germany, December 17, 1932.

Dear Mr. Skinner:

It is indeed generous and kind of you to write me with regard to the Einstein case and I am not able to tell you how much I really appreciate your letter. I think I have always appreciated the generous friendships which it has been my good fortune to have, but I have once again had strengthened the realization that friendships are the dearest possession we can accumulate in this world.

As to the Einstein case itself, I need not give you any details as I am sure you understand the whole situation, but I am sending you herewith a copy of the Secretary's telegram about the press conference and also a copy of a press release and a telegram which the American organizations in Berlin sent to the Secretary. If Mr. Einstein had not conducted his visa application with the press for a week before he ever took up the matter with us, there would have been no Einstein incident and instead of Geist who received him in my absence having subjected him to a gruelling, it was really the Einsteins who subjected Geist to a very severe ordeal, and the tactful and skillful manner in which Geist handled the matter makes him really deserving of a gold medal. On account of the intensely personal criticism I was interested, of course, in having myself cleared, but I also wished to have it clearly understood that
that Einstein had been received with all courtesy and consideration. I cannot help but feel that on the part of certain individuals the opportunity was seized to attack our visa practice as a whole and I feel that we have come out the victor. Now that it is all over, the incident may in certain respects have worth while effects. I am not sure that certain newspaper men will be a lot more careful in the future about attacking Foreign Service officers for the performance of what is their simple duty.

Mrs. Messersmith takes this opportunity to join me in wishing you and Mrs. Skinner a very Happy Christmas and a New Year filled with all manner of good things.

Again with real appreciation of your thoughtfulness,

Cordially and sincerely yours,

Honorable Robert P. Skinner,
American Minister,
Riga, Latvia.