Berlin, Germany, January 18, 1933.

Dear Mrs. Swope:

I have your letter of January 3 expressing regret that based on newspaper reports of discourteous treatment of Prof. Einstein by me a note of censure should have been passed by a group of citizens meeting at your home. I appreciate very much your letter and it was very thoughtful of you to write me.

I do not believe it would serve any useful purpose now to go into the circumstances surrounding the so-called Einstein incident except to reiterate what I hope and believe is now generally understood, that there was no Einstein incident. Mr. Einstein called at the Consulate General during my absence on official business at Breslau to apply for a visa for a temporary stay in the United States, and he was received by Mr. Geist who was in charge during my absence, with all the courtesy and consideration due to an eminent man and an international figure. That the newspaper reports should have given such a distorted picture of the circumstances surrounding the granting of a visa to Mr. Einstein was exceedingly unfortunate as they gave impressions concerning the visa practice of our consular officers abroad which are in no sense justified by the circumstances. It should be a matter of pride at home that American consular officers have a reputation among foreigners having to use Consulates, of receiving them with more courtesy and consideration than they receive in the consular establishments of their own country, and travelling Americans who have to use foreign Consulates.
Consulates I think are also familiar with the fact that our consular establishments invariably give them courteous and effective cooperation and assistance. It was therefore all the more extraordinary that so many of our newspapers at home in their comment should have taken it for granted that Prof. Einstein was treated at this Consulate General in an inconsiderate manner.

Believe me, with very real appreciation of your letter,

Very sincerely yours,

George S. Messersmith,
American Consul General.

Mrs. Mary H. Swope,
1040 Park Avenue,
New York City.