Berlin, Germany, June 27, 1933.

Dear Moffet:

I appreciate very much indeed your letter which I have just received this moment and would like very much to write you, but the pouch is closing in half an hour. I have written to Mr. Phillips at some length and have added a note to the letter, suggesting that you may be interested in reading it also. It gives my impressions, dictated rather hurriedly, of the situation as it now stands.

In my opinion things are growing here from bad to worse because the pressure from the bottom is increasing constantly and is daily more difficult to withstand. This applies to practically every field. The complete suppression of the Social-Democratic party recently and the action taken afterwards against the Deutschnationale subsidiary organizations foreshadow the prohibition of the Deutschnationale as a party. The action against the Catholic Center is becoming more evident and we have news of priests being arrested quietly all over the country because they will quietly express their views. The arrests of Social-Democrats and Deutschnationale have tremendously increased and the very large increase recently indicates a certain hysteria among the intermediary leaders of the National-Socialist party. It seems to me there is practically no one of the former regime outside of a few figures like Bruening and Curtius, who are not either in Schutzhaft, in concentration camps, in prisons or practically confined.
confined to their homes or beds. The action against the Center is becoming stronger and it is not improbable that there may be arrests of even men like Brüning. Men like Curtius have tried to make themselves secure by writing in favor of the new regime, but that does not seem to help them very much always. The newly appointed Evangelical Bishop for the Protestant Churches has resigned and Kommissars have been placed in the Protestant Churches. These are for the most part lawyers. The Church is to be coordinated just like every other part of German life. The resistance of the Catholic Church may lead to definite steps against it and I do not think these are out of the question entirely. The action will probably take the form of setting up a German Catholic Church, and this will be followed by establishing a German National Church, in which the Protestant and the New German Catholic Church will be united. All this sounds rather extraordinary, but it is what they are leading up to. Goebbels made a speech yesterday in which he emphasized again that there can be only one party in Germany and that they will not stop until there is only one party. He also emphasized that there can be only one form of organization in Germany, whatever that is, and that is National-Socialist organization. By this he undoubtedly meant also that the Church must be brought completely into the party picture. I wish I had time to send you some of the extraordinary statements which some of the Nazis have been making with regard to religion. I see this morning that one man made the statement that there can be only one Church in Germany and that Hitler is the "Werkzeug", that is the instrument of God. We can laugh at this sort of thing or we can think the people who are saying it, are crazy, but we must not forget that this sort of thing is being put over and is being passively accepted by the great mass. You are entirely correct in viewing this anti-Catholic movement in Germany with alarm. It is a question as to whether the whole Nazi movement may not go on the rocks on this Church question. I personally believe that they will get by with it. It is going to cause tremendous complications, of course
course, but in the inner circles of the intermediary leaders of the party they say: "We don't care about foreign relations and foreign good feeling. We are building up the new Germany in the National-Socialist spirit." The primary leaders of course feel differently about it, but this is what I have been trying to make clear in my despatches - that the radical masses and intermediary leaders are not following the primary leaders in their more moderate views.

I appreciate very much your comment at the end of your letter and should like to write you at more length. Gordon and I appreciate tremendously the confidence of the Department, and you can depend on us doing our best.

Cordially, and with all good wishes,