Berlin, Germany, February 1, 1938.

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter that I have written today to Mr. Jessup, who is interested in the case of Fritz Rabinovitsch and who is the subject of your personal letter to me of December 8, 1937. I feel quite sure that I will get Rabinovitsch released but it will take time and I shall have to work it out with a good deal of tact and care as they are very quick to get their backs up at the Secret Police when a German citizen is involved.

I have seen Mrs. Stresemann but have not yet had an opportunity to hand your letter to her of January 19th which just arrived. I shall see her in the next day or so. I want to say in this connection that I am quite uneasy about her position. When she returned from Switzerland recently they wanted to take up her passport at the frontier but she persuaded the official not to do so, but had to give a promise that she would present her passport in Berlin to be limited to six months. I think she may have difficulties as passports of non-aryans are being strictly limited. When Emil Baerwald arrived back from America he was called into the police and his passport was likewise limited. In the case of Mrs. Stresemann I am afraid that when her passport expires they will refuse to extend it or grant her any facilities for leaving the country. She would be a very unhappy woman if she had no opportunity at all of leaving.

The Honorable
George S. Messersmith,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington.
leaving this country from time to time, and according to the new regulations governing passports of non-aryans only persons traveling abroad in the interest of German business will have their passports extended.

I am seeing Mrs. Stresemann in a few days to talk over the matter carefully and advise her as to what she may best do. I am inclined to believe that she should see Baron von Neurath and find out whether or not it is the intention of the German authorities to grant any exceptions with respect to her case. In view of the prominence she enjoys as the widow of one of Germany's foremost statesmen I think she has a claim for special treatment at the hands of the present regime, but I believe it doubtful that von Neurath has the courage or the influence to give her the protection she should have. The anti-Semitic policy here is becoming so harsh that only a few persons in the Government appear to have courage to go against the Party will. I understand that even Goering cannot take any stand against the rabid leaders of the anti-Semitic faction.

I do not know how Mrs. Stresemann's affairs will turn out. I think there is no chance whatever of her obtaining permission to transfer any part of her fortune and if she should endeavor to make the usual arrangements with the Gold Discount Bank of converting her holdings into Sperrmarks and making a transfer on that basis she would land abroad with a few thousand dollars; that is to say become a rather poor woman. I believe the only hope is for her to remain here for the time being and muster what influence she can to straighten out the question of her passport so that she can come and go as she pleases. I think she can bring enough influence to bear to attain this end. If worse comes to worse I believe I could take up the matter with Himmler who, next to Hitler, is undoubtedly the most powerful person in Germany, and get a certain amount of protection for her. The manner
manner in which this high-minded and fine woman is treated is a terrible injustice. It is one of those instances in the present situation which must in the end be righted; that is why I am confident that ultimately protection can be got for her. She is very unhappy and nervous and I believe she dreads the indignity more than she does the limitation on her liberty.

I am glad that you have taken such an interest in Joachim as the moral support she derives from your kindness and friendship is very great and she is so worthwhile that I think we should do everything in our power to help her through these troublous times. I am sure that a way will be found to help her over the passport difficulty so at least she can travel abroad from time to time as she wishes.

With warmest regards, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Enclosure:
Copy of letter to Mr. Jessup.