



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



AMERICAN EMBASSY

Berlin, April 12, 1939.

Personal and Confidential.

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

I merely wish to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 8, in which you informed me further with regard to the probabilities of the bill introduced by Senator Smathers not coming up for hearing. Since our first correspondence with regard to this question of German clerks, I want you to know that I have been conscious of the necessity for vigilance in this respect, and I am actively working now to supplant German clerks, wherever possible, by American citizens. You will remember last January, when Avra Warren was here, the Department authorized the appointment of seven new temporary clerks for the Visa Section. These seven were Americans, and it is my intention, provided their qualifications are satisfactory, not to release these Americans but to allow them to fill the places of foreign clerks. However, I am bearing in mind the long services rendered by some of our most faithful non-American members of the staff. Fortunately the demand for clerical help is so great in Germany at the present time, that it is no real hardship to suggest to Germans that they find work elsewhere. I am proceeding along this line; but with tact, fairness, and a constant regard to the interests of the Service.

I entirely agree with you when you state that undoubtedly "the most faithful and the most useful alien clerk we have can be turned into a spy and used against us by the pressures which authoritarian regimes can exert." There is no question but what if they wish

The Honorable
George S. Messersmith,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.
U.S.A.

to

to enlist their services against us, they can exert the pressure and compel them to fall in line. I do feel, however, that up to the present time they have not done so. If we become more and more lined up with the Western Powers into an anti-Fascist front, there is a possibility that such pressure may increase, and to meet this eventuality I am taking every administrative measure to prevent alien clerks having access to those parts of the building where confidential information is available. As you know, the Chancery and the main offices of the Consulate General are on the second floor, running from the Ambassador's office, on the Pariser Platz side, straight through to the Consul General's office, on the Tiergarten side. On the ground floor are the visa sections, and the notarial, passport, citizenship, temporary visitors' visas and welfare sections. No confidential information is kept on the ground floor that would be of any value to the German authorities. I am planning, in connection with the reorganization of the staff, to have no foreigners at all on the same floor with the Chancery. No foreigners, of course, are employed in the Chancery with the exception of the messengers and the assistant of the Disbursing Officer, who is Italian by marriage. It may not be possible soon to get every foreigner out of the main offices on the second floor; but those retained for the time being will be a few in whom undoubted and special confidence is placed. However, they will be replaced as rapidly as possible by Americans. Finally I may say that you can be assured that every precaution is being taken in this respect.

I was rather amused at your mild indictment of our Quaker friends. The disillusionment you have had with respect to Dr. Jones, I am inclined to share; as I hear that when he recently returned from Germany he was awarded a prize of \$5000 for having done such significant service for the refugees by interceding in their behalf with the Chief of the Secret Police here. All the facilities that Dr. Jones got here in Germany with the Secret Police were arranged by me, and in fact I had to conduct the whole negotiations myself in German, as the Quakers were practically unable to converse in that

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language. I was therefore very much disappointed to learn that Dr. Jones was so amply rewarded financially when he returned to the United States.

I wrote you some time ago about the unfortunate suggestion made by Mr. Vail, and how I was able successfully to combat his pursuing such plan any further. I agree with you that it would be very unwise to employ any of their people, that is, if they seek employment as Quakers and in connection with their institutional activity. I have to be very careful with regard to whatever the Quakers undertake here, as they are trying to mix in with this refugee proposition, and I am always afraid that they will make suggestions to the Germans which might interfere with the eventual success of the Intergovernmental Committee's plans and the negotiations which are still going on. I wish to assure you, however, that I am keeping a careful watch on the Quakers and their activities here, and will endeavor to head them off tactfully if I think that anything they are planning to do will not be in the best interests of all concerned.

Faithfully yours,

Raymond