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November 15, 1938.

Personal

Dear Morris:

The other day while we were discussing certain political reporting questions we touched upon the reporting along political lines from Vienna. I need not tell you that with the situation throughout the world as it is, we need here to be better informed than ever concerning developments in all parts of the world. On the other hand, I think in view of the great volume of work we have to do of all kinds, we must use greater discretion and discrimination than ever in determining what to report upon and what not.

So far as the political reporting from Vienna is concerned, I think we should view it in the same way we do political reporting from any other office in Germany except that perhaps it is as important, if not more important, than from any other consular establishment in Germany. It is a large area and, although Austrian independence is gone, there are local situations which are of interest in the general German picture. It seems to me that it would be desirable for you or for one of your officers to whom you may delegate this to write a weekly letter to the Embassy in Berlin commenting on the situation in what is now Austria. Occasion may arise when you might wish to write more often or less often. Circumstances alone can dictate this and also the possibilities you have for sending confidential communications to Berlin. I would not hesitate to make these letters as long or as short as in your judgment they should be to keep the Embassy and the Department informed. Political events in Austria certainly do not have the same importance as they had when it was an independent country, but it is essential that the Embassy in Berlin be informed concerning all that is happening of real interest in Austria.

As to machinery, you appreciate, of course, that when such a letter is addressed to the Embassy in Berlin, a copy should be forwarded to the Department. I do not favor the

idea

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idea of consular establishments sending political despatches directly to the Department when the establishment lies within a well coordinated supervisory district such as Germany. Of course there are occasions when a consular officer may find it desirable to direct a political despatch to the Department but, in that case, it should be an invariable rule to send a copy at the same time to the mission.

You may wish to delegate this reporting to one of your officers. This is entirely in your discretion. Of course in some respects every worthwhile officer at a post, whether it be a mission or a consulate, is a political observer and the officer who is charged with this work should be in close contact with the other officers on the staff so that they give to him whatever information they may get. If the letter is prepared by one of your subordinates, it is, of course, desirable that no letter should be submitted to the Embassy in which the views expressed do not conform with yours.

I know you will be only too pleased to cooperate with the Embassy and Consulate General in Berlin in this matter and it is the duty of the Embassy to give its indications as to the type of political reporting in which it is most interested from the respective districts. I am sure that if you have any doubts as to what the Embassy is particularly interested in, the Ambassador will be very glad to write you in detail if you will take up the matter with him.

With all good wishes,

Cordially yours,