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A-M

February 21, 1939.

FP

Mr. Shaw

VD

Mr. Warren

FA

Mr. Davis

A-M/F

Mr. Hosmer

A-M

Mr. Warren

Please note the appended letter from Geist in Berlin with which he sends copies of letters from the consular officers in Germany with regard to the Smathers's Bill. While we have on the whole as high-class alien clerks in our consular establishments in Germany as we could find anywhere throughout the Service, I am inclined somewhat to feel that our officers in Germany are a little overly optimistic with regard to certain aspects of the problem. If we keep our alien clerks in Germany confined to the routine duties, which they usually carry on, I agree that we do not have to worry even under present conditions in Germany about their engaging in espionage activities under pressure from the regime. On the other hand, anyone who knows the present German regime and the German character realizes that if and when the German Government wishes to

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use Germans on our pay roll they will be subservient. It is quite naive and altogether unrealistic to believe that under the conditions existing in Germany today one of our alien employees who is put under pressure by the German Government would let us know about it. The most he could fear from us would be dismissal and he knows what he might be subjected to by the regime.

While I am in accord with Geist's letter and with the comment of our other officers in Germany that this is not a real problem at this time, I am viewing it somewhat more realistically than some of them do in their letters.

With respect to whether alien clerks are more easily suborned through money, et cetera, in visa matters, I can only say that I believe that what has happened at Stuttgart is quite exceptional. I believe that on the whole our alien clerks can be depended upon to be as unapproachable as our American clerks. It is impossible to raise any generalizations in a matter of this kind. Certainly our position in this respect would be better if we had only American clerks. In other respects our position would be infinitely worse if we had only American clerks.

In any event it is encouraging to have these letters from our establishments in Germany.

G.S.M.

A-M:GSM:VNG