



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Berlin, Germany  
November 1, 1937

Dear Mr; Messersmith:

My sojourn in Paris was immediately cut off by news from home that my sister was very ill. I arrived in Berlin to find that she had had very severe trouble with her heart and for five nights had been only able to get any rest with sleep caused by the administration of narcotics. She became steadily worse and though the heart and the diabetic condition were under control her nerves seemed to get worse by the hour and at the end of last week she steadily failed, and in desperation last Saturday I had her transported to the hospital, as it was impossible any longer to provide the proper care at home. Two days before she was taken away she did not know any body and acted very much like an infant of two weeks old, perfectly helpless and unconscious of what was going on around her, always partially awake and partially in a kind of drunken stupor. The strain of all this rather affected me severely last Friday, but since I have rallied and am pretty well myself again.

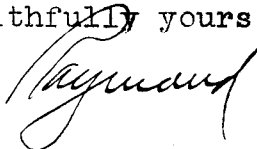
Mr. Jenkins left for London today, and I am now in charge of the Consulate General. I shall soon be in a position to get everything reorganized as it was in 1934 when you left and expect to carry on with real success. Mr. Gilbert left a few hours after the Ambassador arrived, but before going wrote me a very nice letter recalling our conversation in the finest terms and indicating very clearly that he was intending to cooperate with me in every way and showing by the sincere tone and final expressions that he was looking to me to help make his job a success. I am very optimistic as to the functioning of our mission here during the ensuing months; and I think you will find that we are all going to get back on the stronger ground which was held when you were here. I am going to help Gilbert and the Ambassador in every way, and I feel sure that with a common attitude and a common front and mutual support that we shall all carry out our duties as they should be.

This letter is going on the "Bremen" which sails from here November 6th and I learn that Bergmann is sailing on the same vessel for home, and will very likely call to see you when he is in Washington. Personally everything is well with me except the disheartening condition of my sister and besides the prospects of having most heavy expenses, as the doctor bills now are consuming over half of my entire income.

I hope that you and Mrs; Messersmith are now established in your

new home and that everything is going well with you. With kindest regards and sincere affection to you both, I am

Faithfully yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Raymond".

P.S.

I learn that the Foreign Office has very little enthusiasm over the return of Mr. Dodd and that it is their intention "to put him on ice" and give him as little cooperation as possible.