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Vienna, December 28, 1936.

Dear Mr. Carr:

I appreciate very much your recent letter acknowledging the copies of my letters to the Secretary and to Judge Moore. The comment which you have been good enough to make I value all the more as I know it comes from a good friend whose principal interest is that the letters should be as effective as possible. I have tried to keep the letters as short as possible, but it is no easy task in view of all the angles which have to be considered. I shall try to keep the letters shorter even if I think in some ways their effectiveness may suffer. There are various aspects of these letters that I would like to take up with you and to get your opinion on, but which I cannot go into today as I am trying to get off a pouch this evening. Many thanks for having written me.

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I am sending you herewith a copy of my letter to Judge Moore of December 22. Please don't think that I have already neglected your good advice by writing at such length, but as I had not written since December 5, and as there are really important developments, I feel that they had to be adequately covered. The situation in Germany is getting to a crisis, but I don't think they will resort to war simply because they know it would be disastrous for them. This is no time to treat with Berlin nor the time for concessions.

The Honorable
Wilbur J. Carr,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

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I am also sending you copies of two letters, dated December 22 and December 28, which I have to Dunn about the Duke of Windsor who, as you know, is staying near Vienna. They contain information in a lighter vein, but of very human interest, and I would not be surprised if Mrs. Carr would not be interested in reading these two letters. The practically forced abdication of the King and his exile are a great human tragedy which might have had very far reaching consequences. No matter what views one may have, and ones feelings must be conflicting, it is a great tragedy, for the former King had many fine qualities which can awaken only admiration and respect. When things get quieter he has indicated that he would like to come to see us once in awhile and I shall encourage him in this for it will be pretty lonely out at Enzesfeld, and it is extremely important both for him personally and for the general situation that he remain quiet and happy until the divorce is final.

We had our usual Christmas dinner and had the Chiefs of the Latin American Missions here with their families to join our own official family. I had a letter from one of my good friends in Buenos Aires today telling me about the really fine impression made by the President and the Secretary. My friend was good enough to tell me that the work which I had started in the Argentine during my tour of duty there had at least to a degree helped to lay the foundation for the better relations which we have. I personally think that what I did some of my friends may have exaggerated, but there were things which I did there of which I never spoke in Washington which represented real effort and which saved us a lot of grief. Sometime when I see you I will tell you of how by one afternoon's work I prevented the putting into effect of a new tariff act which was all ready for the President's signature and which the President was going to sign that evening. I had a meeting with four of the leading Argentines who prepared this decree, largely under the influence of the British Ambassador and the Argentine agricultural interests, and after four hours I convinced them that it would be a calamity for the Argentine to put it into effect. They left me to go over to the Casa Rosada to ask

the President to tear up the decree, which he did, instead of signing it that evening as had been planned. I always hesitated to tell this to the Department as it looked like blowing my own horn, but it was perhaps the most important thing I ever did during all my years of hard work in the Service.

At that time Savaadra Llamas was not in the Government but was practicing law and doing a lot of writing, and I recognized his potential importance and probable future influence and I cultivated his friendship and confidence, which were not easy to get for he is a strangely aloof person even for an Argentine. I finally got his friendship, as well as his confidence, and then succeeded in getting him to accept an invitation to attend a meeting of the International Law Society which was held that year at a place on the Hudson River, and I made our plans so that we could go north with him on the same ship. It was a hard job to get him into a reasonable attitude towards us and to make this trip to the United States, but I have always felt that what has followed made my initial efforts well worth while. The Secretary, who has a great knowledge of human nature, knew how to deal with him at the Montevideo Conference. Mr. Hull is really a great man and we can feel fortunate that we have such a Secretary of State in these difficult times.

Kennan arrived yesterday from Moscow to see the doctors here. He seems to be in quite good shape and his year's assignment to Vienna, which the Department made possible, was really a great and fine thing to do. His present visit here is in the nature of a precaution as the doctors advised him to be looked over after a year. I think he is on the way to good health and should make one of our most useful officers.

Huddle has arrived here from Istanbul and plans to spend some days in Vienna writing up his reports before going to Berne, etc. He has been suffering from sinus trouble and I think it will be a good thing for him to stay here a few days quietly and I have suggested to him a treatment for

sinus trouble which is very simple and consists of heat applied two or three times a day. I am sure that it will help him a lot. He is a man of very fine parts and of very good and sound judgment. He takes a lot of knowing, but he is one of the most sound men we have in the Service. I have always found his judgment fair, sound, and considered.

We do not seem to be making any progress on the repairs and alterations to the house for the plans have not come. I am glad that Captain Underwood has been ordered to come here when the plans arrive, but I am still of the opinion that it will be useless to ask for bids on these plans and specifications if they are anything like what I think they are. It will take a tremendous lot of work to translate them, etc., and to get the bids, and then I feel sure we will find we can do nothing with them. I think we should make up our minds to do the exterior work which has to be done, early in the spring, and then there is nothing so pressing about the rest. I feel sure that after Underwood comes here his recommendation will be that these external repairs must be made without delay, are practically a fixed charge, and should be made independent of what else is planned or done. I quite understand why the Department wants to keep the whole one project, but I doubt whether it will be found feasible. I hope that my last despatch and its enclosures may be found helpful, but it was obviously impossible for me to do what the Department's telegram asked me to do. It asked for specific figures which I am under present conditions not able to give. I think Underwood should be instructed to come here with as little delay as possible, for whatever report he makes, it is bound to be helpful to the Department.

Again with all good wishes to you and Mrs. Carr from us both,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

George S. Messersmith.

Enclosures:

1. Copy of letter to Judge Moore.
2. Copy of letter to Mr. Dunn, Dec. 22
3. Copy of letter to Mr. Dunn, Dec. 28.