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Vienna, January 11, 1937.

Dear Edgar:

Thanks very much for your note of January 9 which has just reached me. I am just sending you a word to say that the situation here within Austria has not changed since I saw you. The position of the Government here remains firm and well established. The Austrians, as you know, take their holidays seriously and there has been little activity during the past three weeks. The negotiations for a trade treaty between Berlin and Vienna, which were started on December 14 and interrupted for the holidays on December 23, are starting again today and I think the Austrians are less disposed than ever to make any agreement which would increase their exports at the expense of the Austrian treasury and the more favorable Austrian position so laboriously reached during the past few years. The pressure, however, will be heavy from Germany and there will be a good deal of pressure from agricultural interests within Austria which do not understand the major position but which are governed entirely by selfish considerations of what they believe immediate advantages and which they do not understand are also illusory. My impression is that nothing will come out of these negotiations of any advantage to either side, but nevertheless it will be interesting to watch the results. Austria is going to endeavor to continue her policy of maintaining her independence and of not doing anything to disturb the internal or external peace.

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The situation in general, which gave some promise of clearing up at the close of the year, has become very dark indeed, I think very largely as a result of the increased precarious position of the situation within Germany. It is indeed dangerous, as you point out, to have any illusions and I have had one, as you point out, that more confidence may be put in one of the dictators than circumstances are increasingly showing is possible. The dictatorships have introduced an element of uncertainty which makes all progress almost impossible and while there may be differences of degree, essentially they present the same danger. You are quite right. At present I am trying to inform myself more thoroughly concerning the situation in Berlin which I find a rather difficult thing to do as I have had little direct contact during the past two weeks. If I learn anything of interest I will not fail to let you know.

Sincerely yours,

Edgar Mowrer, Esquire,  
THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS  
23 Rue de la Paix  
Paris, France.