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Berlin, Germany, July 15, 1932.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

Honorable Frederic M. Sackett,
American Ambassador,
Berlin.

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am sending you herewith a copy of a strictly confidential despatch, No. 877 of July 13, which I am sending to the Department with reference to the inauguration of the practice of giving certain instructions to Foreign Service Officers passing through Washington and proceeding to the field, with regard to economic, financial and social background reporting intended for its use. While I was recently on leave this subject came up for discussion with several officers of the Department, and so far as I could gather it seemed to be their opinion that some action should be taken along the lines set forth in this despatch. I was in fact informed that the Department would contemplate seriously beginning in the near future the practice of giving certain information to officers passing through Washington to their posts in capitals.

It occurred to me on my return here that although the matter had been discussed in some detail in the Department, it might be advisable to place certain considerations in writing and I have therefore prepared the strictly confidential despatch which is being transmitted to you herewith.

Very sincerely yours,

George S. Messersmith,
American Consul General.

Enclosure:
Copy of despatch
No. 877.

A true copy of
the signed original.
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