

January 3, 1939.

Personal

Dear Raymond:

This is just a word to tell you how much I appreciate your confidential note of December 12 in which you tell us of what has happened to some of our friends. It is a most distressing story and merely confirms all that we hear here. Somehow I feel that there is still a God who takes an interest in what happens on this planet and that in some way or other, if not some other kind of justice, human justice will again prevail. There is no penalty too heavy for those to pay who are inflicting these ills on individuals and on the world.

I do not know what we have to look forward to during the coming year. I do not know whether it will come to war or not. One thing I am sure of and that is that there can be no return to peace and normal relationships between States until this Government is no longer in power in Berlin. The worst of it is that the economies of the world are being dislocated by the rearmament programs being forced upon us by Germany. This is a serious matter. There is going to be a good deal of discussion about the rearmament program in the Congress which is convening today but very real steps in that direction will be taken here.

I wish I could tell you the real story behind the protest which Thomsen tried to lodge here. It is enough to say that the whole thing was brought on by them and there would have been no publicity whatever if it had not been due to the German Government. What they are

after

Raymond H. Geist, Esquire,  
American Consul,  
Berlin, Germany.

*Heath, Raymond H.*

after I am frankly not able to say but they have certainly made it impossible for there to be any improvement in relations. The effect of the incident in this country has been to solidify the position here even more. Thomsen practically demanded an apology. I think they wanted to use it for home consumption.

There is so much that I would like to say to you that I cannot even begin. I just want at the beginning of the New Year to tell you how much we here appreciate what you are doing in Berlin. We are not unmindful of it and we appreciate it fully. You have done a great work and unfortunately it is necessary for you to continue. What we should do without you there I do not know, I am delighted that you were able to get away for a few days, and I think you should do this every now and then. It is absolutely necessary when one is under such a strain.

I am going to have a very busy time. We have, first of all, the rating lists of the career officers to make up for the next two years. We have beginning next week and lasting for two weeks oral examinations of some 100 men who passed the written examination for the Foreign Service. We have ahead of us the hearings on our appropriation bill. We have ahead of us a very heavy legislative program in which the Department is interested. All sorts of things can develop during this Congress and there will be a good deal of work for us. I do not look forward to it in any way.

My wife joins in all good wishes.

Faithfully yours,