



Berlin, Germany
May 18, 1938

Dear Mr. Messersmith:

The situation here is becoming more severe and grave since the promulgation of the laws looking toward the confiscation of the property of non-Aryans and the setting up of Kommisars in Austria who have taken away the businesses of people without the slightest recourse to law. These events are well known in Germany and those people who up to now have not been able to leave the country are filled with the deepest consternation and dejection. I have had to take a hand in the personal affairs of Fritz Eichberg, who, you know, was pretty well at death's door last fall and who has had his passport taken away from him. I am happy to say that by careful intervention and through certain connections I have in the Police I managed to get a passport form him valid for one year. Today I gave him an immigration visa and he is sailing in a few weeks for the United States. Mrs. Eichberg's mother is seriously ill here in Berlin and so Mrs. Eichberg has to wait until a later date to travel over. But Fritz Eichberg is now a happy man and has regained his freedom. His affairs required, however, that his immigration remain a secret, so the visa was not put into his passport, which under our regulations is not required. I forwarded his documents by courier to Paris where they will be sent to Mr. Jenkins in London for ultimate delivery to Fritz when he arrives there. He is sailing on an American boat from Southampton some time in June. The manner in which the German Government treats these fine and respectable citizens is a black scandal of the darkest hue. I am so happy to have extricated him from his trouble.

Old Emil Baerwald has also been causing me anxiety. His passport has been taken away also; but he refuses to yield to the hard fate which these people are trying to impose upon him. He and Mrs. Baerwald keep going, but I think that the health of the old gentleman is beginning to break under the strain. I have done everything I could to cheer him up; and he remains in touch with me all the time. His wife tells me that when he comes to see me or has a luncheon appointment with me he always cheerful and like a new man. I decided, however, to try to get him a passport; as he has refused himself to make any move, insisting that there is no use. He steadily refuses to immigrate; though I understand that his brother, Paul Baerwald in New York is urging him constantly to come. But he would like to visit his brother again and to spend a month or so recuperating in Switzerland. I took him over to the Auswanderungsberatungstelle, the Director of which is a good friend of mine, and I think in another week or two I shall get a passport for Mr. Baerwald. I shall be very happy indeed if I can get this through; and I feel pretty sure of success. They are only giving passports to German non-Aryans if they can show that the trip abroad is in the interests of

German business, that is, if they bring in *divisen*, which Mr. Baerwald cannot show. Otherwise passports can only be had for emigration once and for all from the country; and he will not hear of immigrating. If you should see his brother I would appreciate your not mentioning my anxiety about his brother; as I understand Paul Baerwald is very much upset about the fact that Emil has no passport and cannot leave the country. I have put the matter up to the authorities in such a way that I do not see how they can refuse to grant my request.

I wanted to let you know about these two individuals in particular.

I saw Mrs. Stresemann last week and she is coming to my house Friday to a lunch which I am giving for Gilbert; her situation has not changed, and I am afraid little can be done for her. She still has her passport and is not molested in any way and lives quietly in the comfort she is used to; but her mind is sorely tortured by the atmosphere in which she is compelled to live. She has foreign securities to the value of about \$100,000 deposited in Berlin and other assets worth about 500,000 marks. I think there is probably no hope of her ever getting these funds freed; though up to the present time the Reichsbank has not compelled her to sell her foreign securities. A chance may come some time to help her and I am always watching for it; but the prospects are small.

This is just a little note about these few people. Before the pouch goes I shall give you the latest news about the political situation.

Faithfully



P.S.

After a huge amount of work during the last two months I think there is now a good chance of getting a house for the Ambassador. Mrs. Wilson has seen it and likes it and I have been putting through the negotiations at the *Divisenstelle*, as the house is owned by a woman who is emigrating from the country and wants the rent paid in New York in dollars. The negotiations have been very complicated, but at the present writing there is a hope that they will succeed. This was one of the houses I ran on to by sending ninety letters to promising looking places in Grunewald. If this falls through the chances for a house will be rather slim. If they get this they will be beautifully and adequately housed, and quite within their means.