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M. Moffet
AM

January 13, 1940.

Personal and confidential

Dear Mr. Baerwald:

I have your note of January 8 and I appreciate very much your good wishes in connection with my appointment to Cuba. It is good of you to write me about this and I may tell you very frankly that Mrs. Messersmith and I are very much pleased. We naturally leave here with very mixed feelings because I have intensely enjoyed my work here in the Department and the associations which I have been able to have. It has been fine to be in our own country and to see more of old friends and associates, although we have not been able to move as much from Washington as we would have liked on account of my confining duties here. I have really had a very fine opportunity to try to do things here and in many respects I hate to leave. As a matter of fact, I have tried to do a good many things in various fields during the past three years which have required expending my physical strength to a degree that I have been paying for and I doubt whether I could continue the way that I am going without changing my ways of working. There will be plenty for me to do in Cuba, and in many ways I think the change will be a very good thing for me to do. My successor here is one of the finest men I know and if I could have selected my own successor I could not have chosen one in whom I have more confidence.

Baerwald, Paul

I know how serious your preoccupations are with regard to Poland and other areas in Europe. I am frankly surprised that you are able to do as much as you tell me in Poland. I quite appreciate the importance of your having someone from the Joint Distribution Committee in Poland and I have understood this from the outset. The

Red Cross

Mr. Paul Baerwald,
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Red Cross, of course, was very anxious to have its own people there too because its activities are much handicapped and necessarily limited because they cannot have their own people in Poland. They have to work through the German Red Cross and in this way hope to get nondiscriminatory distribution of such aid as they are able to give. I advised the Red Cross from the outset to be most insistent about having their own people there but it was impossible to arrange it. The only thing that they could get was that from time to time someone from the Red Cross might be permitted to make a brief trip to Poland. The long and the short of it is that the Germans do not wish any foreigners in Poland. I think they don't even want our consulates there and I would not be surprised to see them try to force our consular establishment out of Warsaw. I think you will agree that if the Red Cross has not been able to get permanent representatives in Poland in connection with the work which they are doing through the German Red Cross, it would be quite impossible to hope to get any permission from the German authorities for a representative of the Joint Distribution Committee to go -- no matter who he might be.

As I have said, I realize thoroughly how much you need someone there and how much you desire one of your people to be there. I think I need not tell you that we would be willing to make any effort to help you to that end. On the other hand, it is quite clear that it is just no use your pursuing this matter at this time because all the information we have leads us to the definite opinion that any effort which you might make would be without success. The only way we could get a positive answer would be to send an army in to clear the way for your representative. That is putting it strongly but it is just exactly the situation which we have to face. I know how difficult it is for some people to understand this but we shall have to do the best we all can to make them understand it. Some people do not quite realize what we are up against and what tremendous forces are at play in the world today.

I know that the foregoing is not constructively helpful to you but I wanted to tell you frankly just what the situation is as I see it and as I believe it to be.

I hope very much that my wife and I may have the opportunity of seeing you before we go to Cuba and should

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we get to New York before we go, I will get in touch with you.

With all good wishes to you both,

Sincerely yours,

A-M: GSM: VNG