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AIR MAIL

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EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Habana, Cuba,
June 18, 1941.

Dear Friend:

I was delighted to hear your voice over the telephone and have had the impulse many times to write you, but it is almost a physical impossibility. I have increasing difficulty in getting through with what I have to do in spite of the competent assistance which I have. It is a situation which I do not see getting any better.

I am delighted to know that you may come down and we will be happy to see you in time. The trip by plane or by train is comfortable and although it is fairly warm here I think you would be comfortable in our home, and I would be happy to have an opportunity to see you and to talk over so many things with you.

After our conversation this morning, I immediately got in touch with the Consulate. I find that Wendel has not been refused a visa, but action has been deferred for a few days. When I last wrote you with regard to Wendel, there was no question but that he could get a visa within a day or two after his arrival here, as we had examined into all the facts and there was no reason why a visa could not be issued.

Since that time, there have been other developments, and instructions which the Consulate has received. You know that the activity of the Germans in the United States who have recently immigrated to the United States have, in many cases, been very serious. The German Government by threats is forcing Germans who have immigrated to the United States to act as German agents and against our interests. The German Government is threatening Germans in the United States who have relatives in Germany with retaliation against these relatives if they do not obey the instructions given them by German agents in the United States. This is one of the reasons why we are clearing out the German Consulates in the United States for they have been sowing terror among the Germans recently arrived in the United States and who happen to have close relatives in Germany or occupied territory. For this reason, therefore, our Government has issued instructions that no visa can be issued to a German for admission into the United States who has near relatives in

Germany,

The Honorable
Daniel Heineman,
50 Broadway - Suite 1700,
New York City.

AIR MAIL

Germany, without the Consulate first obtaining an advisory opinion in each particular case from the Department of State. I am sure you will agree that this is a wise measure, and if you have any doubts about the wisdom of the measure, I am sure I could dispel them if I told you all the facts we have. In the particular case of Mr. Wendel when his application was taken yesterday and considered, the recommendation of the Consular officers examining the case, were to the effect that a visa should be issued. They found the case entirely in order. In view, however, of the instructions of the Department of State, as Mr. Wendel's father is still living in Germany or in occupied territory, even though he is divorced from Mr. Wendel's mother who is in the United States, an advisory opinion must be sought from the Department of State. This is being done by the Consulate by airmail, and the Consulate is making a strong recommendation that in this case the visa should be issued. I have assured the Consulate that the presence of Mr. Wendel's father in Germany or occupied territory would not influence him in any way in his acts when in the United States where his mother and the rest of his family are residing.

The visa has, therefore, not been refused, but this necessary formality has to be gone through with. I have asked the Consulate to call in Mr. Wendel and make it clear to him that the visa has not been refused, but that the application is pending and will be given rapid solution. I have no doubt whatever that there will be a favorable response from Washington. There is, I believe, nothing to worry about.

With all good wishes to you and the family, from us both,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

