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THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Réponse le
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Rout.*

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2891	10.11.36
Remise à M	le
H. Horn	
Répondre le	
Classer :	

AMERICAN LEGATION
Vienna, November 6, 1936.

Handwritten signature/initials

Dear Friend:

Messersmith

I appreciate very much indeed your thoughtful and cordial telegram. The reelection of the President is a source of tremendous satisfaction to me, not only personally, but as an American. I have had the privilege of learning to know the President and I admire to an extraordinary degree his courage, vision, and understanding of the problems with which we are faced. He has been good enough to give me his confidence, and I need not tell you how highly I prize that. I feel confident that his reelection is the best thing that could have happened for our country, for, as you know, it still has a difficult road before it. But I believe that the President has the courage and the wisdom to guide us into smoother waters and to spare us some of the misfortunes with which this older Continent over here is struggling.

I have been continuously confident that the President would be reelected by a very large popular vote, and have continually said to my friends that he would have not less than 400 electoral votes. His overwhelming majority comes, however, as a surprise.

I personally have no ambitions except to continue to be able to serve my country in some worth while post in the foreign field. I have no desire except to remain at this present post, which I find most interesting and where there is plenty of opportunity

Mr. D. Heineman,
c/o "Sofina"
Rue de Naples,
Brussels, Belgium.

for the exercise of any activity or ability which I may have. I am, however, prepared to go to any post and to serve the President and the Department in any capacity, whether it be at a more important or a less important post than this. The Service has used me so well that I feel, no matter what assignment I may be given, I shall be content, and my wife feels exactly the same way about it.

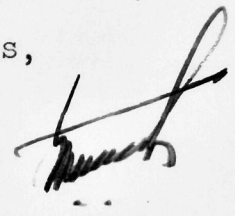
For your confidential information, I may tell you that there are those who think that I should go to Berlin to replace our present Ambassador. I am told that even among his friends there is a feeling that it would be desirable for him to retire and that he be replaced by someone with adequate knowledge of the general position and who will be able to give to our representation in Berlin that influence and prestige which our interests require. I personally have high regard for the Ambassador, for I think he has consistently viewed the situation in Germany and in Europe in a very wise and intelligent way. Perhaps the principal difficulty is that he is not a man of real force and cannot carry conviction in any quarter. Although holding, I believe, very sound views on the general situation, he seems to find it difficult to give expression to them in such a way as to give clarity and force. My own feeling with regard to my going to Berlin is a very mixed one. I realize the responsibilities of the post, and, while I do not shrink from them, I am very definitely of the conviction that the post should seek the man in this case and not the man the post. I am naturally flattered that some of my friends should be thinking of my in this connection and that they should believe that I am able to carry the responsibilities which those of us who know the situation realize the post involves. I am confident that whether there is peace or war, or whatever the situation in Europe may be, our Berlin post is perhaps the most important one in our foreign representation and will grow increasingly so. It is a post, therefore, which should be filled on considerations entirely apart from personal preference or political preference. I think the President appreciates this situation, and he has shown such a wisdom in making his appointments in the Foreign Service that I think we can depend on his taking the attitude which he believes in our best interest. Personally I shall do nothing towards getting that or any other post. I am sure that the President and the Department

will use me wherever they think that they can best utilize my services, and with that decision, whatever it may be, I shall be content.

I am only telling you about this as I thought you would be interested to know that there are those who are thinking of my going to Berlin, and have been for some months. There is so much that I would like to talk over with you concerning the general situation, for I am sure I would find it helpful in the clarification of my own views. I hope that before long we may have that opportunity, although I see no prospect of my leaving Vienna in the near future. I see the path which several countries on the Continent are following as an exceedingly dangerous one, and becoming increasingly so. It may lead them into a crisis which perhaps even those countries do not want.

With all good wishes to you and Mrs. Heineman and again with very real appreciation of your telegram,

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'H. Heine', written in a cursive style.