(1192)

Confidential April 18,1939.

Dear Raymond:

I have your confidential letter of April 4 in reply to mine of March 17 in which I wrote you with regard to a confidential report issued by the Jewish Telegraph Agency in New York under date of March 6, 1939. I appreciate very much the full comment which you have given me. It is helpful to me for my background here. I am not commenting more fully on this matter at this time as I have a very great deal before me. The principal thing is that I was confident that you had not said to this representative of the Agency that the present German Government would live up to any engagement it took. It was quite obvious from this report of the Agency that you were the officer of our Government referred to who was supposed to have made this statement. In view of the confidence which so many of us have in you and in your judgment, it was, of course, not a good thing to let this stand this way. We have, I believe, sufficient on the record to make it absolutely clear that the German Government has no intention of living up to any promises that it makes unless it feels that it is in its interest to do so. This same applies to this refugee problem. When I see Mr. Baerwald, or any of the people interested in the Agency, I will take up with them this confidential circular of March 6 and correct any misapprehensions which may have been created by it.

Men like Mr. Wohlthat may make promises, but those of us who know must not remain under any misapprehensions as to how far they can keep any promises which they may

make

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

1192

make and would like to keep. So far as the refugee problem is concerned, Mr. Taylor is actively trying to carry through the formation of the Finance Corporation, but with the shadow of war over the world as definitely as it is today, you will appreciate that there are even more important considerations than the refugee problem which require earnest thought and attention.

With very good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

A-M:GSM:MJ