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Vienna, March 3, 1936.

Dear Geist:

I got your letter of February 23 with its enclosures - a copy of the letter to Dunn and to Mr. Moore - through Paris. I also have your letter of February 28. First of all, let me tell you how much I enjoyed the copy of the letter to Dunn of February 15. It is a splendid letter and will be very helpful at home. I am delighted to have seen it, not only because it is so interesting to me, but to know that this interesting data is being submitted to the right place. I am quite in accord with practically everything you say in your letter and what you say to Judge Moore in your brief note concerning the British attitude is very interesting. I am inclined to think, however, that the British position is even more firmly fixed. If there were the changes in policy and procedure within Germany indicated in the note, it would undoubtedly have its effect on a certain part of British opinion, but it would not, I believe, affect the British attitude where the position is now thoroughly understood. Besides that, we know that there is no possibility of the change in policy mentioned taking place for if there is one thing we know about National Socialism it is that its policy cannot change.

I have been distressed to hear of your sister's further illness and was much relieved to hear from your letter of February 28 that she is somewhat better. I can appreciate what this means to both of you and how discouraging it is. I am delighted, however, to know that you yourself are feeling so much better and that the operation seems to have been a full success. I can realize how relieved you must be, but I hope you will be prudent and take good care of yourself.

Raymond H. Geist, Esquire,
American Consulate General,
Berlin, Germany.

I am going to try to send you several of my recent letters by the courier if I think they will reach you before I get to Berlin myself. If there won't be much difference in time I will simply bring them with me. I am planning to leave here on the evening of April 4, and get to Berlin on the morning of April 5. I hope to stay in Berlin April 5 and 6, and go on to Hamburg not later than the morning of the 7th, and perhaps the evening before. We sail from Hamburg on the MANHATTAN on the 8th. I am keeping my fingers crossed and hope that nothing will happen to keep us from going at that time. I will keep very quiet while I am in Berlin and will of course arrange to see the Ambassador and Jenkins while I am there, but otherwise I want to keep very quiet. I am not telling very much about my plans for after all they may be changed. We would not think of disturbing you at the house, much as we would love to stay with you, but that will be for another time. We will stop at the Esplanade and I look forward to seeing you as much as possible while I am there. I shall take as much of your time as you can give us. Perhaps we can have a good deal of Sunday, April 5, together, unless you are planning to be away.

What you say with regard to the building is tremendously interesting and you are as usual entirely right. I am glad that Jenkins is with you and I think you should take a firm stand. A certain friend of ours is most extraordinary in placing his personal interests first, and besides that, we know that he has no business judgment. It may have been a mistake to buy a certain building, but that is water under the bridge. The thing is that we have the building and paid well for it and it is a very valuable property. We cannot barter it away for a mess of pottage. There must be no makeshift solution. It is much better to leave things as they are for the present. Do keep a firm stand on this for you are so dead right that you will be doing a great service no matter how much pressure may come from certain quarters. Our interest is that of the Government and of the Service and our prestige, all of which are at stake in this matter, and purely personal interest which would involve a makeshift solution must be put into the background. I am not writing more plainly as I am sending this letter by open mail, but I just want you to know how right I think you are and how strongly I shall support this position when I get home. I shall speak quite plainly about it in the right places. It is time that there should be some plain speaking.

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I know what a difficult time you must be having in many ways, but it is very much worthwhile and you will never regret what you are doing these days. There are those who know what it means and the final record will do you justice. It is out of the feeling of a task well done that we get our real satisfaction and that is certainly a feeling which you can have. There are an increasing number of people who realize what the situation is.

This is a hurried letter, but it conveys to you and your sister our best wishes and the hope that you both will soon feel your usual selves. If there is any change in our plans I will let you know, but as I see it, the situation is developing so that we ought to be able to go home as we are planning.

Cordially and faithfully yours,

GSM-MJP