

671
Vienna, March 20, 1936.

Dear Feis:

I have written the Department recently several times with regard to the Austro-Czechoslovak trade treaty. The treaty itself will be signed towards the end of this month when the Chancellor and Foreign Minister return from Rome. It is now completed. The details, however, will not be made known fully until its signature. Such information as I have been able to get concerning the details, I have given to the Commercial Attaché, who has prepared the appended report. I thought you would be interested in this preliminary information, as I understand our negotiations with Czechoslovakia have started.

I had planned to return home to see my eighty-seven years old mother over the Christmas holidays. She is fairly well, but her doctor tells me that her heart is in a precarious condition and that she may pass away at any time. I did not go home for the Christmas holidays, as it was necessary to stay here to put through the purchase of the Legation, which we would have lost had the purchase not been made in January. I have been planning to sail on the MANHATTAN on April 8th, but the last ten days have made it doubtful whether it would be wise to leave. The Anglo-French agreement last evening, while it is far from settling the position; does, I believe, make it almost certain that nothing will happen in the next months. Nothing has really been settled and the general position is, perhaps, more precarious and more full of potentialities than before. The most one can say is that a crisis has been passed through, and, in my opinion, not any too well. Things will not be

Dr. Herbert Feis,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

671

- 2 -

quiet, but any explosion is pushed off for some months. I think, therefore, it will be better to go home now than to put it off. I am therefore planning to sail on April 8th, and I shall be in Washington for a few days around the 17th or 18th at the latest. I look forward very much to seeing you then and to a good talk.

With very best wishes to you and Mrs. Feis,

Faithfully yours,