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Approved

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
A-M

December 29, 1937.

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Mr. Moffat:

You will be interested in the appended correspondence with regard to the American Chamber of Commerce in Berlin. You will remember that when I was in Berlin, I wrote a number of despatches on what I was doing there to try to get this situation cleared up. Since my departure, I think things have gotten worse again, for the conduct of the Chamber is largely left to Dunning who is a well meaning but a weak sister. The one thing he is interested in is in keeping his job and he trims his sails to that end.

You will note that Mr. Dunn suggests that we might ask for a confidential report by the Embassy or the Consulate General on the present status of the American Chamber of Commerce in Berlin. I leave this entirely to your judgment but, if we do not ask for a report officially, we might ask Gilbert or Geist to give us a report in a personal letter.

The matter has importance in only one respect. That the Chamber is not a really American Chamber of Commerce we know. The one disturbing feature about it is that it

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does endeavor to speak for American interests from time to time in this country and in the United States Chamber of Commerce here in Washington it has the same standing as any of our other Chambers of Commerce abroad. It is, of course, not generally understood here in this country what the situation is with regard to the Chamber and when it does say anything it is not understood that it may not be really representative of American interests. Then too there is the inconvenience that Americans going to Berlin in certain cases get in touch with the Secretariat of the Chamber and I think get rather distorted and inadequate pictures of the situation. On the whole it is an unhealthy and undesirable situation but I do not know what we can do about it.

It is really a situation which should be cleaned up in Berlin rather than from here.

G.S.M.

GSM
A-M: GSM: VNG