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Vienna, January 10, 1935.

Dear Dunn:

I hoped to write you at length this week, but I have not been able to do so. The last days I have been fighting off an attack of influenza and yesterday had to keep to my bed. I am still hoping to avoid being laid up, as we have a busy month ahead of us. I am sending a brief despatch to the Department, in which I give the most important developments in the situation here.

As is customary here, the holidays have been quiet and I do not think anything is going to happen from within Austria in the near future to disturb the general situation. All the rumors which may reach you about Starhemberg planning some sort of a coup and that he will make himself Regent in the near future may be considered as rumors, and nothing else. There is no doubt that he would like to be Regent, but he is too much of a patriot to do anything to disturb the situation in that way before the time may be ripe, and the time for a regency or restoration has not arrived.

The thing that may be watched in this part of the world is the increasing tendency for Austria and Hungary - particularly Austria - to coöperate with the Little Entente. Recent developments in this part of the world have shown the desirability of such coöperation and the necessity for it. The resistance in Hungary, which comes from Gömbös, is as strong as ever, but his position is growing weaker. Such increased coöperation will be welcomed in Paris and in London, and, while it will be a child of difficult birth, there are at least interesting developments in that connection. All this of course, as you may be sure, is not causing any joy in Berlin.

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I hope to write you giving some interesting and confidential background during the course of the next week unless this influenza should get the better of me. We are having a very mild winter here, with lots of rain and fog and practically no snow.

I must tell you how delighted we all are here that the Buildings Commission has decided to buy the house in which I now live as a permanent residence for our Ministers here. We could not have got a better house, and we have got it for a ridiculously small sum. I am confident it will prove to be one of the best purchases we have made. My wife and I are delighted, not only because it solves a personal problem for us, but because it will solve for many years this problem here in a most satisfactory way. I am deeply appreciative of all the Department did to bring about this action of the Commission, and I would be glad to have you tell the Secretary so when you may have the opportunity.

With all good wishes to you and your family,

Cordially yours,