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Berlin, March 16, 1938

Dear George:

I received, all together, your three letters, - two of February 24 and one of February 25. I am so deeply indebted for all your kindness that I hasten to write you even though I am not ready to answer all the points in detail.

1. Regarding the examination by Huntowski, I would rather write you more fully after thinking it over a bit.
2. I suggest you hold the D-1 and not, repeat not, give it to Morris Meadows, unless I cable that I am satisfied with conditions here. I am as yet far from satisfied.
3. In respect to the courier arrangement I am more than happy. I do not anticipate that this will take place except under very exceptional circumstances, but I did want to be ready for such exceptional circumstances.

4.

The Honorable

George S. Messersmith,

Assistant Secretary of State,

Washington.

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4. Respecting Dr. Hemmen, I will either look it up myself or get Prentiss to send you a further letter. I am not deeply in this matter myself.

4a. In regard to trade agreements I have taken occasion, with several people in authority, to talk over the virtues of the trade agreements program, the underlying basis of negotiation, the advantages of the widely extended application of the most-favored-nation clause, etc. As applied to Germany, when questioned I have always replied that I am not an expert in these matters, but that it would seem to me that even for an expert it would be difficult to find any way of harmonizing the ~~autarchical~~ system with our most-favored-nation principle. I have endeavored to whet their appetite, but at the same time give them no encouragement that under their present system a way could be found. My hope is that at some stage of the proceedings the outside area covered by the most-favored-nation clause may look so tempting to them that they will themselves propose some modification

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of their system. Although I see deep interest in a trade agreement with us, I see no evidence that they have any intention of modifying their system. So I shall continue to boast of the advantages of our system and shake my head dolefully over the fact that our differences appear, to a layman at least, irreconcilable.

I shall write you more fully in response to your letters. I just wanted you to know, my dear George, how very much I appreciate all that you are doing for Kate and me to make this show as successful as possible.

HRW/hu