(77)

Bs.

N°	Date d'arr.
3987	5-3-37
Remise à M	le
H.	
Répondu le 6·3	
Classée :	

Summerlin

Vienna, February 27, 1937.

Répondu le 6/3/37

Mr. D. N. Heineman,
38 rue des Naples,
Brussels, Belgium.

My dear Friend:

I received some days ago your note of February 19th, which I appreciate very much. I note with interest that you may not be sailing for the States until after March 15th. As I do not intend to sail until April 7th, on the MANHATTAN from Hamburg, there seems to be a probability that we may see each other in New York, and I would appreciate your sending me just a word prior to your departure, as to where you can be reached during your stay in New York. The length of my own stay at home is very uncertain, but I shall endeavor to get away from here, even if the trip home will have to be very short. My principal reason for going home is to see my aged mother, who is now eighty-eight, and, unfortunately, slowly losing her sight. But there are increasingly reasons, other than personal ones, which make it desirable that I make this trip. There are certain matters which I feel it would be advisable to be able to discuss in the Department.

I have no information concerning the changes in the Foreign Service which the President and the Department intend to make other than that which appeared in an article in the NEW YORK HERALD about a week ago. According to this article, Gibson is to go to Brussels; Caffery is to go from Havana to Rio; Biddle is to go from Oslo to Warsaw as Ambassador; and Steinhardt, who has been in Stockholm, is to go as Ambassador to Chile. Braden, a new appointee, is to go to Cuba. The article mentioned two men not from

the career who are to go to Central American posts. I have seen no official confirmation of these changes, but I gather from your letter there is something to them if it is settled that Gibson is to go to Brussels.

I understand that Gibson was very anxious to leave Rio and to return to Europe. There was talk that it was seriously considered sending him to Berlin. I do not know whether sending him to Brussels is good or not, but certainly his going to Berlin would have been undesirable. Morris and Cudahy, who was at Warsaw, are evidently not going to any other posts. Cudahy is in many respects a very nice man and not lacking in intelligence and even in a certain interest, but he does not have the necessary background for the major post which he wanted, and is too much of a dilettante for such a major post at a time when the responsibilities of the Foreign Service are so great.

Hugh Wilson at Bern, I understand, is interested in going to Berlin. He is one of our best career men, but he would not fit in at Berlin. He is, however, a man who can be, with advantage, advanced in the Service. Unfortunately, service at Bern and Geneva does not seem to fit our men for service at posts were initiative and assumption of responsibility are required. There are unquestionably many changes in the Service being considered, but what changes the President and the Department will make, I have not the least idea. I have kept myself out of the situation, and you are one of the very few friends to whom I have even mentioned possible changes. I happen to know that there are those who think I should go to Berlin. I am inclined to believe that in the Department itself there may be a feeling to that effect, although I have no definite information. As I do know, however, that in a good many quarters my name is being considered in that connection, I have felt it necessary for me to refrain from any expression with respect to this appointment or otherwise. So far as Berlin is concerned, I consider it the most important post in the diplomatic representation of any country for the next years. For this reason, I feel so strongly that it must be a post which seeks the man, and not the man the post. The responsibilities of it will be heavy enough for the incumbent to carry without the additional one of his having sought it.

I am confident that the President and the Secretary realize the importance of the Berlin appointment and are giving the matter careful thought. That a change should be made there is necessary, but when and if it is made, it must be for the better, and we cannot make the same mistake of the British in sending a less capable man there.

I am very much interested in what you say concerning the British appointment to Berlin. It agrees with what I have heard from other, but less well informed, quarters. It is a very serious matter, for the people who say that it does not make any difference what kind of an Ambassador we have at certain posts, know little about the situation really. I am afraid the British career service is pretty poor of good material at the top. Our own service is, on the whole, in better shape than theirs.

It is good of you to say what you do about me in connection with the Berlin post, and I am naturally pleased that you should feel I could carry the responsibility of it. I have no information as to what the President and the Secretary intend doing. I am relieved that Gibson is not going there. My one interest is that a good and the right man should go there. You will appreciate why I feel that I cannot take any initiative. I am inclined to the opinion that, while a change will be made there and at other posts in addition to those which have been spoken of in the press, there may be a certain amount of delay with respect to the Berlin appointment. And this is, perhaps, all for the best.

The visit of Neurath here did not result in any change in Austrian policy. While things went well on the surface during the visit, very real differences developed, and the basic opposition of the German and Austrian ideologies came out very strongly during the visit. It is, of course, a good thing for Austria and for peace that the Austrian position is being maintained so firmly against the strong pressure from Germany, but it is distinctly bad that this visit should leave such a bad taste both here and in Berlin. Austro-German relations have not been bettered by this visit, and the lifting of the veil will have some consequences - whether good or bad, remains to be seen. Business in many respects is getting better here and the position of the Government seems stronger than at any time since

I have been here.

With all good wishes to you and your family, and with very real appreciation of the kind sentiments and confidence expressed in your letter, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,