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LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Vienna, December 27, 1934.

*Répondre
le 8/1/35
Roub.*

Prunel

Dear Friend:

*adu le 8/1/35
Gué 5-8 M.*

I got your letter of December 13 in due course, together with the report on conditions in America, which I read with much interest. As I think you might wish to have this back, I am returning it under separate cover. It has been particularly helpful to me to have this very penetrating, careful, and considered comment in this report.

Since I last wrote you we have gone through a very difficult personal experience here. My wife has a younger sister living in London, married to an engineer with the International Telephone and Telegraph Company. They had a little boy who was born in Berlin when we first went there some five years ago. He was an extraordinarily intelligent and lovable child who has spent a good deal of his time with us and we considered him almost as our own. The mother and little Bobby and his nurse came to Vienna to spend Christmas with us and shortly after their arrival he was taken ill and in spite of the best medical attention available here we lost him on December 14. The same day that he passed on, one of my nieces, aged 18, who is spending the winter with us, was taken with appendicitis and had to be operated the next day. Fortunately everything went well and she was able to come back to the house the day before Christmas and is now almost entirely recovered. As Mrs. Messersmith's mother has not been very well and as my own mother is for almost the first time confined to her bed and the news of her is very bad, our Christmas had not been a very merry one, but we are trying to carry our burden as best we can, as we know we have no more than our share.

Although our own family Christmas has not been a very happy one, I feel that we have a good deal of reason to believe that this Christmas season brings with it a promise of a greater measure of peace on earth and good will towards men in the coming year. The developments in the last six weeks have for the most part been very much in the right direction and I think are very encouraging. Certainly at home and in most of Europe outside of Germany things are moving in the right direction and if we can keep to the path on which we have now put our feet I think that the developments in Germany will be tremendously influenced in the right direction, by events outside. I am one of those who believes that there can be no appeasement in the political situation in

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Europe until there is a firm common front by the major powers and until there is a responsible regime in Germany. If there is maintained such a common front as we now see forming, then the return of a responsible and, I believe, much more reasonable regime in Germany will be very much accelerated and once we get to that point then we can breathe freely, not only so far as the maintenance of peace is concerned, but also the beginnings of recovery in the economic field are possible. I am not insensible to the difficulties still in the way and to the obstacles which still have to be overcome, but it does look as though we were on the way at least.

I am sure that the situation in Belgium is giving a good deal of cause for concern. There are many factors there which even at this distance I can appreciate as presenting grave difficulties and cause for concern. The Belgian situation, of course, is bound up with that of the rest of Europe and throughout the world, and I am hopeful that the developments which we can begin to see will continue on a favorable course and this, of course, will help to alleviate the situation in Belgium. Certain major steps towards readjustment have to be taken in Belgium and several other countries which are still uncertain, but it looks to me as though a further devaluation of the Belgian currency may be finally found necessary. The news from home is much more encouraging, although I am sure the road ahead of us is still a fairly long one and surely a hard one.

It was thoughtful of you to write me and my wife takes this opportunity to join with me in wishing you and Mrs. Heine-
man and your family all good things during the New Year.

We look forward with pleasure to our next meeting, here or elsewhere, and it would give us great pleasure to see you here.

Cordially yours,



George S. Messersmith.