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ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

July 18, 1938.

Personal + Confidential
Heineman

My dear Friend:

About two weeks ago my aged mother, who was almost 89, was taken quite seriously ill and for several weeks I was shuttling between Washington and her home in Pennsylvania. I wanted to be with her as much as I could and at the same time I did not know how much good it would do for me to be there as it gave her the impression that she was really ill. I was able to spend a good deal of time with her but unfortunately was not there when she finally passed away. It was quite obvious from the beginning of this last illness that she could not recover and death in the end came as a release from pain and suffering. You know that one of the things which led me to accept this post here was the thought that I would be near her in her declining years and I am happy that I have been able to be here. It seemed to give her a great deal of comfort that I should be here even though my duties in Washington were such that I was able to spend actually very little time with her. Besides being a most unselfish mother, she was also for so many years one of my principal advisers and counselors and I shall miss her very much. I cannot grieve because I know that it would be selfish for during the last year she had been gradually losing her sight and for a person as intelligent and as active and as interested as she was in all that was going on in the world a lingering illness would have been most difficult to endure.

I have been under a good deal of strain this last year and with this coming on, I have felt the absolute necessity of taking a rest. Much as I like my fellow men, I feel the need of getting away completely so I am going to a rather primitive place in the woods on Cape Cod belonging to my brother-in-law and I intend to spend three weeks there.

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D. N. Heineman, Esquire,
38, Rue de Naples,
Brussels, Belgium.

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I intend to be back in Washington on August 15 and by that time perhaps the worst of the warm weather will be over. I feel sure that the complete change and rest will do me a lot of good. I hope that you and Mrs. Heineman are getting a change and I have been wondering whether you went to Switzerland for the wedding. I hope as soon as Stephen and his bride come back here they will come and make us a visit here in Washington. I will try to get in touch with him as soon as we return here after August 15. Of course, they must not come until the worst of the warm weather is over for Washington is simply impossible these days.

We are at a very difficult point in the British trade agreement negotiations. We have been getting on fairly well but for some reason or another the British really do not seem to understand what is behind our program and how important it is that a really constructive agreement be arrived at. I can think of nothing more important at present than that the two Anglo-Saxon countries should be able to arrive at a comprehensive and significant agreement. We here certainly are trying to show our good will. The British, on the other hand, seem to be too much in the horse trading spirit and neglecting the great fundamental aspects. I sometimes think that even Mr. Chamberlain does not understand how important this is. I have been trying to continue to believe that he knows what he is after. I have always had my doubts. I think he has too much the mentality of a City merchant and he just doesn't seem to be able to see further than the end of his nose. It would be a catastrophe if we cannot bring these trade agreement negotiations to a successful close through British intransigence or lack of vision. If the negotiations do fail, it will be their fault and not ours and they will have more to lose than we. I wish that they could see this. It will indeed be distressing if they will not see it and in the end will be almost as unhappy for us as it is for them. Naturally our German friends are sitting on the side lines and are hoping that we can't come to some agreement. Failure to come to an agreement will be a major victory for the Germans in some respects.

There is so much that I would like to write you about that I cannot begin to comment on the general situation. There is the same amount of loose talk going on about all sorts of things here and I thought you would be interested in the enclosed clipping from the Herald-Tribune, together with a memorandum of a recent press conference with regard to an alleged new monetary agreement with the British.

So

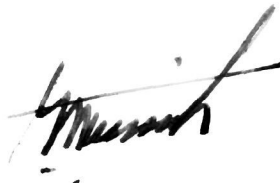
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So far as I know there is nothing of this kind in the offing. The most important thing now is to get a trade agreement through on a good wide basis. We have been trying to cooperate with our British friends but they are making it awfully hard for us by making so much of the cooperation come from us.

I do hope that you and Mrs. Heineman are planning to come over this fall as we would love to see you.

With all good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'M. M. M.', written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.