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Berlin, Germany, December 22, 1932.

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Dear Mr. Harris:

My wife and I appreciate very much indeed your good wishes for the next year which we heartily reciprocate. I hope that the New Year may be filled with all manner of good things for you both. It is not impossible that Mrs. Messersmith and I may see you in Vienna during the first half of next year. I shall have to get away from here for a little rest and we are thinking of going to Vienna and Budapest in the car. If we do this I shall be sure to let you know.

Thanks for your mention of the Einstein affair. There was of course no Einstein incident. It was all embroidery on the part of Mrs. Einstein and the newspapers got off on the wrong foot largely because of her and because of the fact that we were unable to give them any information even for background purposes. Lippmann of course was the arch criminal and his personal attack was quite unspeakable as it was unjustified and his retraction was so ungracious and so incomplete that I am sure that the whole incident will react on him. Einstein was treated at the Consulate with all consideration and courtesy and he was of course not asked any of the silly questions which the newspapers said were put to him. It was of course an opportunity to attack our visa practice and our immigration laws and unfortunately there are too many people ready to attack these in their selfish interests. The incident could have done me a great deal of harm, but I think it is now quite well cleared up. I was interested not only in removing the criticism from myself and this office, but also to protect our visa

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practice which I felt all along was indirectly being attacked.

I do look forward to the pleasure of meeting you and Mrs. Harris during the next year and hope that you are enjoying thoroughly your tour of duty in Vienna.

Again with many good wishes

Cordially yours,

Ernest L. Harris, Esquire,
American Consul General,
Vienna, Austria.

A true copy of
the signed original.
