

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

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General (44)H.	

My dear Friend:

I am delighted to have a word from you, and I have been wanting to write you for some time. I heard that you had gone to Switzerland and wanted to write you, but these are hectic days, and we have our hands full.

In the first place, I know you will not hold it against me that I did not see you in Brussels. I went to Belgium last fall with Mrs. Messersmith, hoping to have a real holiday in congenial surroundings, and one of the things we certainly planned to do was to go to Brussels and to see you. The third day after I got there I had to go to bed with an attack of arthritis in the shoulder, and while it was not anything serious it was unusually painful, and kept me in bed for two weeks. As soon as I was able to get up I had to leave and make a trip to several of our Consulates in lower Germany. The net result was that I had no holiday and saw very few of our friends. I am now planning to leave here with Mrs. Messersmith on March 30 for a rather extended trip home. It is probable that I may not be back until the middle of July. I have a good deal of work to do in Washington while I am home, and I fear I will have to do some traveling which will take me to most of the larger cities in the country. Mrs. Messersmith is going to leave here the middle of March for London and join the ship on which I am going, at an English port. As you will be in Arosa until the middle of next month I have little hope of seeing you in Berlin before we go home, but should you be

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in Berlin before March 30 I hope you will let me know.

I was glad to hear that the new Belgian Minister is Count Kerchove. His predecessor was a very nice man, and while we knew everyone else in the Belgian Embassy we did not know him. I met his wife on a number of occasions. Count Kerchove I know, but he would hardly remember me as it was always on occasions when there were a lot of people that I met him. I know Lippens very well, of course, and a good many of the family connections. If de Kerchove arrives before I leave I will be sure to get in touch with him.

I appreciate very much your sending me the pictures and am particularly pleased to see how well you look. The long and really restful stay seems to have done you a world of good, and from the snapshots of Mrs. Heineman she must have benefitted equally by her stay. I am glad to have the snapshot of the King because, as you know, both my wife and I have always been great admirers of both King Albert and the Queen. They were always so nice to us when we were in Belgium, and they add a dignity to royalty which has done a lot to uphold its prestige in the rest of the world. I notice from the snapshots that he is getting older, like all the rest of us.

I am sure that you are well-informed as to the situation in Germany, so any comment from me would be superfluous. The question of the elections, of course, is arousing major attention now, and there is a good deal of speculation as to the result. I question whether Hindenburg will get a majority in the first election, although I am personally of the belief that his vote will be

larger

larger in the first election than is the general impression among my friends. I have little doubt as to the result of the second election, and I think Hindenburg will be elected by a good majority. You would be surprised, however, to find what some really worthwhile people are saying. What is so extraordinary is that really worthwhile people are giving their support to Hitler when in their own minds they do not believe he will really accomplish anything. That he is a factor which has to be counted with is unquestionable, but that the movement which he represents is more important is even more certain. He, of course, while not totally unselfish, did not wish to run for the presidency. He feels that his defeat will affect the prestige of his party, and in that he is correct. There are so many worthwhile people who argue that his real program is not different from that of Brüning's, but that the difference is that Hitler will carry out the program. They credit Hitler with more good judgment and real ability than even those who know him best can credit him with. They forget that no matter how well-intentioned he may be, if he should gain power he would probably be overwhelmed by the diverse movements he has championed. His election might or might not be a good thing, but there is a danger involved which I for one doubt if the German people can risk. If the transition between a Hindenburg and a Hitler régime could be gone through safely, it is a question as to whether things might not be better, but I do not believe, personally, that that transition is possible without international reactions and even internal situations which might bring ruin in their path. I personally have very great confidence in Brüning, and believe that if this election is once over the internal situation will be so clarified that he will be able to do things which he cannot do now. But as I said at the outset, I should not talk to you about the

situation

situation here, as I know you are so well-informed concerning it. The thing that impresses me most is the political inexperience of my German friends. They seem to feel that Germany can be run by a few supermen through their brains and technical genius alone. They seem to forget that elections are won in an entirely different way and that if one makes promises to get power one must fulfil at least some of them or that power fades rapidly. So many of my friends seem to forget that in government one has to deal with human nature, and that very hard and stern realities have to be dealt with.

With regard to the young doctor concerning whom you write, I shall be very glad to do everything I can, and I believe that because of certain conditions the matter can be arranged. I shall be very glad to write to my colleague in Zürich, who happens to be a very good friend of mine. Before I write to him I would be glad to know if Dr. Csato has taken up the question of a visa at the Consulate at Zürich before, or at any other Consulate. If he has taken it up elsewhere or at Zürich it will be helpful for me to know, as it will guide me in the way I shall take it up. In any event, I think I can already quite assure you that the matter of an immigration visa can be arranged for him.

I know that the long stay at Arosa must in many ways have been trying, but in others it must have been pleasant, and I am sure that it will be a wonderful thing for you. The kind of life that some of us live is certainly against all the laws of nature, and your many interests, no matter how well administered, together with the times through which we are passing, have been a strain that is too much. I am so happy that you have taken this real rest and I am sure that it will be a splendid thing. I have had a hard year myself and have been very foolish, and all the letters I get from my friends in Washington contain a

warning

warning that I am to take things more easily. It is strange how easy it is to give good advice, and how hard to follow it one's-self.

Your letter gave me real pleasure, and I am particularly delighted to have the snapshots of you and the family and to see how Arosa is agreeing with you. If you will drop me a line about the doctor I will be glad to take up the matter at once and send you copies of my letters.

In the meantime, with every good wish for you and Mrs. Heineman, believe me,

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G. Heineman', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right across the signature.

Mr. Daniel Heineman,
Hotel Excelsior,
Arosa, Switzerland.