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XXXXXXXXXXXXX February 23rd. 1932
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Hotel Excelsior

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H.

George Messersmith Esq.

American Consul-General

BERLIN

My dear friend,

I am lying on my balcony in the sun dictating this letter to you. I have been up here since the end of December in order to rid myself of the after-effects of a severe attack of bronchitis which I contracted last August. I hope to return to Brussels fully restored to health by the middle of next month. You promised to look me up whenever you were in Brussels, but you forgot all about me. I read you were there a long time ago in a notice which appeared in the Anglo-Belgian Times, that paper which always brings the latest news with a delay of a fortnight. I saw your name mentioned frequently in the New York Herald in connection with the address which you delivered to the American Club of Berlin and with the organisation of the celebrations for the 200th. anniversary of the birth of Washington.

The new Belgian Minister, Count Kerchove de Denterghem, who recently arrived in Berlin, asked me to give him some letters of introduction to prominent people. I also mentioned your name to him and you no doubt know him from your stay in Belgium; he is a brother-in-law of Lippens, the former Governor-General of the Congo and Minister of Transport.

I have naturally been following with great interest the development of the crisis, which is a repetition of many previous ones, only

the present crisis is more universal on account of the interconnection in the world's economy and the rapidity of modern transport, as a result everyone is affected by it and nothing remains healthy and able to counteract the evil effects which the diseased members of the world have upon its economy in general. If you are interested in the history of the world's crises I can recommend you a book entitled "Geschichte der Handelskrisen" by Max Wirth. It first appeared in 1858 and the third edition dates from 1883; it is no longer obtainable with booksellers in general, but if you call on Messrs. Calvary of the Neue Wilhelmstrasse and mention my name I imagine they will be able to get you a copy. It is certainly a book worth reading and deals with a crisis as far back as that in Lübeck in the 17th. century ending with the crisis on the Paris Bourse in 1882.

Some people pay very little attention to Far East events, but others do think that the United States and Great Britain might be involved in the question. I consider that the whole matter revolves round the over-population in Japan, which seeks an outlet through an increase in territory. In politics every cause is an honourable one provided it leads to success and the attitude of the League of Nations seems to be that it is no use apportioning responsibility till they know who is going to win.

I am under the treatment here of Dr. Amrein the head of the largest Sanatorium and his assistant Dr. Csato, a young Hungarian who studied in Berlin and Vienna. He is a very nice young man and would like to go to the United States. There are several very important American citizens who are willing to vouch for his honorability and he will have sufficient means to carry on. Several positions have already been offered to him. In order to obtain a visa he has to apply to the American Consul-

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General in Zürich. I wonder if you would be good enough to send me a letter of introduction for Csato to the American Consul in Zürich, which I would then deliver to Csato here. I should be very grateful to you. I enclose particulars which Csato gave me of himself.

I am here with my wife and my little girl, both of whom are enthusiastic skiers and are delighted that inspite of the magnificent weather we have had since the beginning of January there is still sufficient snow to enable them to go for long excursions. My elder boy has returned to Cambridge and the younger one is back at school in England too.

The King and Queen of the Belgians were up here for about a week in January and we spent a very pleasant time with them. I enclose some photos which may interest you.

As I do not know your exact address in Berlin I am sending this letter to the Gesellschaft für Elektrische Unternehmungen and asking them to forward it to you.

With best regards to you and Mrs. Messersmith in which my wife joins, believe me,

Yours very sincerely,