

R Walton Moore Papers
Box S
Dodd, Wm E. (1934)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL

October 22, 1934.

OFFICES IN GERMANY

BREMEN:

The staff of the Consulate at Bremen is about the same in number as at other posts with similar work. The rank of the officer in charge is probably higher than is necessary and if occasion should arise to transfer him his services would be available. The work of the office has not declined as much as the Ambassador ~~says~~ the commercial activities of the city have. With over 2,000 invoices, 250 passport services, 1500 non-immigrant visa services, 100 American vessels, 1200 notarials, 114 trade reports and 153 welfare cases, it is doubted whether the office could be run effectively with fewer than four commissioned officers. The principal officer has reported that his staff is not in excess of the requirements.

HAMBURG:

Although the commercial life at Hamburg is on the decline, as it is in most other cities in Europe, the demands made upon the Consulate General for trade information are not decreasing appreciably. Consul General Erhardt is not an officer who would attempt to keep a larger staff than the office required. He reported that he could spare a clerk and the

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the staff was therefore reduced. Instead of Consul Schnare or Vice Consul Steyne the Department has taken Consul Bruins away. Mr. Erhardt agrees with this action and says that his only need now is for a messenger. The reductions in Hamburg recommended by the Ambassador have already been made.

BRESLAU:

The Ambassador suggests that a career Vice Consul and one other consular officer are sufficient to manage Breslau, but he also says the post is very important in a political sense. In order to meet the requirements for an officer who is familiar with political work, the Board approved the assignment of Mr. Patterson to the post. This should make a better balanced staff for the requirements of Breslau and it is not considered advisable to send a Vice Consul to take charge of a post which is politically important.

COLOGNE:

For a number of months the office at Cologne has been running without a principal officer. This was necessary because of the transfer of Mr. Simmons to the Department. Mr. Buhrman has been assigned to the post but will not be able to assume charge before about the first of the year. It is deemed advisable to refrain from making reductions in the staff of an office while it is temporarily in charge of a subordinate or for a reasonable time after the arrival of the new principal officer. It is therefore considered best to await the arrival of Mr. Buhrman and ascertain what recommendations he makes regarding the staff.

STUTTGART:

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STUTTGART:

The Ambassador's recommendation concerning Miss Brown has been noted. Under date of August 16, 1934, Consul General Honaker requested three additional clerks and said Miss Brown could be transferred if necessary, indicating that her services were not entirely satisfactory. His despatch was answered to the effect that additional personnel could not be allowed but that if Miss Brown could not be regarded as a satisfactory clerk, appropriate measures would be taken. In view of the Consul General's request for additional personnel, no steps looking to a change in the status of Miss Brown will be taken until further reports are received concerning her record.

FRANKFORT:

The Ambassador's statement that there are too many officers at Frankfort is not understood because there are only three officers there and the following services were performed at that post during the last fiscal year: 4761 visa services, 401 passport services, 1017 visa services, 2595 notarial and miscellaneous services, 227 protection and welfare cases, and 209 trade reports. This work could not be done efficiently for an indefinite period with less than three officers. With so many demands upon it, the office could not be closed and the work divided between Cologne and Stuttgart as the Ambassador mentions. The possible transfer of Mr. Heingartner suggested by Mr. Dodd is not feasible because of the illness of his wife, which requires a post in or around Germany, and, in any event, Heingartner if transferred elsewhere, should certainly be replaced -

LEIPZIG

LEIPZIG AND DRESDEN:

To carry out the Ambassador's suggestion that Leipzig and Dresden might be united at Leipzig, it would be necessary to close the office at Dresden, and there is too much work at the post to close it. During the last fiscal year there were over 5000 invoices certified, 223 passport services, 529 visa services and 7599 letters received. The Ambassador's statement that the office could be run by an officer of lower rank than Mr. Haeberle is certainly correct, but Mr. Haeberle is only 60 years old and cannot be retired for age. He is not considered qualified to run an office of much more importance than Dresden, so no change has been suggested to the Board.

MUNICH:

The office at Munich is very important politically and commercially, and in addition has a good share of routine consular work. It would not be possible for Dr. Hathaway to devote as much of his time to political work, which is the primary reason for his assignment to Munich, unless he had sufficient staff to relieve him of most of the routine consular work. In these circumstances no recommendation for the reduction of the staff is submitted.

BERLIN:

The transfer of Mr. Geist from the Consulate General can not be recommended. The office in Berlin is a highly departmentalized office and when it became apparent a few weeks ago that there was one too many officers at the post, Mr. Geist

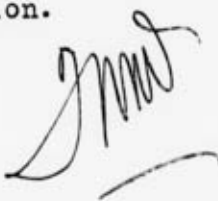
recommended

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recommended that one be transferred. The Board approved the transfer of Mr. Fox to Habana. The Consul General must have an Executive Officer and a man who can take charge of the Consulate General. Mr. Geist fills this need and if transferred would have to be replaced.

The recommendations regarding the retirement of some of the older officers in Germany cannot be complied with because all retirements must be made in accordance with the law governing them. The only way to force retirements except for age is for unsatisfactory records and the older men in Germany have good records.

The Ambassador has suggested that some of the most important posts in Germany be closed. These offices fulfill so many consular requirements that even with the Ambassador's recommendations before me, I cannot suggest compliance with them because of the justifiable complaints from Americans and Germans alike which would follow such action.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. M. S.', written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Dodd

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

September 28, 1934.

Dear Judge: [*Hull*]

The enclosure came to me this morning from Doctor Dodd with the request that it be handed you. As I interpret his letter he wishes you to regard it as confidential, but, in writing him about several other matters today, I suggested that he should permit the report to be laid before the Personnel Board since it may be of real value.

Yours very sincerely,

Phyllis M. ...

September 18, 1934.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am making a report on the Consular situation according to suggestion of last June. Personally, I visited Hamburg, Bremen, Frankfurt, Munich, and Dresden. However, in order to avoid misjudgements I asked Mr. Raymond Geist to visit the places I was unable to inspect; and he also made appraisals of the work in the same places I visited.

In general the Consular people take their work more seriously than our diplomatic friends. They begin at nine A.M. and stick to their jobs pretty closely and are watchful of their country's interests. But there have been serious changes in German economic life which account for the following recommendations.

In Bremen at least half the commercial life is vanishing and the Consular work is reduced in importance. Consul Leonard has been there a long time and might to advantage be transferred. His salary and allowances are above \$3000. Lane, the non-career vice-Consul, is not needed; and one clerk ought to be dispensed with.

At Hamburg commercial life is on the decline quite as seriously as at Bremen and there should be readjustments. Consul Erhardt is fully aware of the situation and is probably the best man to make readjustments. His political

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reports are very good. Both Schmare and Steyne are very competent officials; but one of them might be transferred and the place left vacant. Erhardt says one clerk can be dispensed with.

Breslau is very important in political sense, but not important enough for existing personnel. When Vaughan is there Heard hardly has anything to do. A career vice-Consul and one other Consular officer, with present clerical staff, could easily manage all the work of the post.

Cologne is still an important post but three Consular officers are all that are needed; but \$1000 extra allowance should be made for travel, as contacts at Düsseldorf and Essen, very important industrial centres which have been neglected of late years, are necessary. There are two more clerks than are needed, even with added work in the Ruhr district.

Stuttgart is of increasing importance and the new appointee there, Consul Honaker, is making an excellent beginning. One of his clerks, Miss Virginia Brown, is entirely unnecessary.

At Frankfort the case is a little different. They do not need so many Consular officers and it would be well to transfer Mr. Heingartner. The work of Mr. Jesien

10 years
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is practically nil and he is, moreover, a burden to the Service, according to information I was able to get. When I suggest transfer of Mr. Heingartner I do not mean to imply that he is not an excellent official. Chemical reporting at Frankfort is most important.

It has been suggested that the work of Frankfort be divided between Cologne and Stuttgart. In view of changing economic life of Germany that might be done and a good deal of expense saved; but the special functions of the officials ought not to be overlooked. Cologne and Stuttgart are the centres of the great West German economic life. Frankfort is no longer an important financial centre.

As to Leipzig and Dresden, I am inclined to think both ought to be united at Leipzig under one control. Dresden is no longer what it was, though certain industrial interests could not be overlooked. Present Consul General at Dresden might properly be retired, though I do not mean by this that his work is not good. \$10,000 a year is too much for the management of the office. A Consul at \$5000 a year is enough, with one career and one non-career man as assistants, so long as the office is maintained. There is absolutely no waste

at Leipzig.

As to Munich, I am not sure of the situation. It is a very important post in both commercial and political senses; and Consul General Hathaway is an excellent political observer, his assessments of things having been most useful this year. However, the staff seems too large, although I can not pass upon the individuals as in certain other cases.

The Berlin office is amply staffed; and when new Consul General ^{comes} A, Mr. Geist might be transferred, i.e. after five or six months.

It seems to me that the whole Consular service is more expensive than necessary and I have indicated certain savings. It is my view that some of the older men might be retired and younger men left to do the extra work. No new appointees ought to come to Germany in some years, except in one or two cases. If the Dresden and Leipzig offices were combined there would be a considerable saving, The same would be true if the work at Frankfurt were divided between Stuttgart and Cologne. In case international commerce ever comes back Bremen and Hamburg offices might again have enough to do. At present they cannot expect much. Breslau will never be important, though

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I think the office should be maintained in modest way-
one real expert always on hand.

I think the ruling in favor of transfers from
Consular to Diplomatic field is going to have excellent
effect. Men are thinking more of efficiency and less
of personal indulgences- ~~ev~~rybody feels now that pro-
motion for real work is apt to come; and that counts for
a great deal. As to expense accounts of individuals and
general savings for their Government, I think some
ruling ought to be made which would remind men of the
new era we are all entering. Waste should be stopped.

C O P Y

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

July 17, 1934

Dear Judge Moore:

Circumstances here have been such that I could only write the Secretary in briefest terms about his ruling as to the service here; and, of course, I know he as well as yourself is busy day and night.

But when you have opportunity, I wish you would thank him. I think the method will prove successful. A great number of the regulars in the diplomatic field need the very kind of work and discipline the Consular service requires - closer application and less of social parade. However, I think a number of the diplomatic folk will resign rather than submit; they entered the service for social show.

The two transfers I recommended here are all that are necessary, though I suspect another might be made later. At present, however, the Counselor keeps fairly close to his ~~x~~ job and there are so many pressing things that we need the service of one who has been on the ground a good while; and I believe announcement of other transfers will have most decisive effect. The other two men have worked fairly well since my return May 17th, but neither of them is a real economic or political thinker. The report of Wilson on German psychological and social behavior and motivation during these critical days was so inadequate that I had to return it to him as inadequate. He has never studied anything carefully - except perhaps his German and French languages. These he knows quite well.

Armstrong,

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Armstrong, good-natured and kindly, is of similar type but less gifted in getting on with people whom he regards as infinitely inferior to himself. So, I think consular posts would be good for both.

There are two other changes which ought to be made later. We must not make too many at once. When personnel report goes to Thomas Wilson a month from now reasons for these will be given.

As to situation in Europe: The German economic structure is about to collapse. It will be necessary soon to put everybody on rations as in war time. This due to false quota system, to poor harvests all over Europe and to fears of the people. University people of highest record and international fame, and not Jews, tell me they would leave the country on a week's notice if they could get any sort of a salary. Greatest philosopher in Germany has resigned to take only a temporary job at Harvard.

The French-English, Italian-Balkan alliance with Russia is substantially 1914 agreement. England regards eastern boundary of Belgium as her own boundary. If Russia enters League this pact is going to be the kind of thing Wilson contemplated in his article 10 in League constitution. If the United States were to enter, even morally, Japan would have to come back. It is my judgment that we should quickly make an agreement with England as to the Far East, the Philippine situation being the justification. That would stop war moves of Japan, and bring us substantially into the League. Germany would

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would then hurry back; and the Wilson forecast of 1918 would be realized. There is no use of any people talking about absolute isolation; it is out of the question. German conduct for a year has proved fallacy of Moley's economic nationalism as well as German national socialism. Nations have to learn to cooperate or our civilization will collapse, as already threatens.

As to my own position personal telegram to the Secretary shows it. The situation here is the heaviest nervous strain imaginable short of war. I have done all I could to convince Germany of folly of extreme Jewish treatment, of debt discrimination and of the terrorism which puts best people here in worst possible position. The Foreign Office is in agreement; the British and French ambassadors agree with me; but Hitler-Goering-Goebbels are half crazy. How long before another uprising?

Yours sincerely

William E. Dodd