

R. Walton Moore Papers  
Box 5  
Dodd, Wm E 1935

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
**ASSISTANT SECRETARY**

February 1, 1935.

Mr. Lazaro of Baltimore is coming in to see me and has a note of introduction from Dr. Dodd.

It is contemplated that he may go to Berlin for the purpose of assisting Jewish relief in such way as may be possible but without doing anything to incur the antagonism or resentment of the German Government.

It seems from what Dr. Dodd tells me that if Mr. Lazaro were there without having any business of any kind, he might be suspected of simply being there for the purpose of exerting some improper influence, and the Embassy might become involved in some criticism. It is thought that if he does go to Berlin, he should go there as the representative of some reliable journal or newspaper.

The desire is to avoid anything that will start a controversy, and Mr. Lazaro, if he goes, wants to put himself in a position where he can avoid anything of this sort. The British Ambassador has talked over the situation generally with Dr. Dodd, and he may possibly see the people at the Foreign Office about what can be done in any given case.

Dr. Dodd simply wishes to guard against the possibility that Mr. Lazaro might do something to make trouble for himself and the American Embassy, but Dr. Dodd and I agree that he should not have any official connection with Mr. Lazaro, nor should this Department in any way be responsible for Mr. Lazaro.

July 26, 1935.

My dear Dr. Dodd:

I have just received your letter of the 18th instant and regret that you are not feeling entirely well. Mr. Wilson and I agree in thinking there will be no difficulty about arranging leave for you whenever you let us have definite information as to the time, et cetera.

I am glad to tell you that in spite of the attitude of the Virginia Senators being generally hostile to the Administration, the general sentiment in Virginia seems to be quite otherwise. The Richmond Times-Dispatch is now engaged in taking a poll and the result thus far is indicated in yesterday's issue of the paper, an extract from which I am enclosing. Popular interest is evidenced by the organization of Roosevelt Clubs in many parts of the state. A few days ago such a club was organized in Loudoun County, and I am informed its initial meeting, which was addressed by Representative Woodrum, was very enthusiastic.

I can hardly think of anything more fatuous being done than by Hitler in respect to religious groups in Germany, and by Mussolini apparently intending to risk his future in a war with Abyssinia. But I am not surprised, since history furnishes very few instances of supposedly great men failing to make serious blunders.

The Honorable  
William E. Dodd,  
American Ambassador,  
Berlin.

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The President remains vigorous and cheerful. I do not recall whether I have written you since being his guest on the Sequoia week end trip. Senator Johnson of California and I were the only two public men aboard and I found the intimate contact with the President in every way delightful. When I am with him for any length of time he nearly always speaks admiringly of you.

With kind regards and best wishes for you and Mrs. Dodd, I am

Very truly your friend,

Enclosure:  
Newspaper  
clipping.

RWD: AEM

Dangers are such on the palace that I am insuring it. Meadows manages it. We must not take risks.

Embassy of the  
United States of America.

August 5, 1935.

Dear Judge Moore:

I suppose the Bluecher palace problem is insoluble. Yet I am sure now, as not during last winter that German Government officials would like much to buy the rickety building at price we paid which was far too much - except one can not forget the crazy attitudes of that period. To leave the thing standing is a constant loss, to put it in order would require near another million dollars; and the building is not in most desirable place. I can not see why two committees (Senate and House) could not unanimously recommend action. Then both houses ought to be able to act in a day.

As to service matter: I am ~~having~~ leaving that entirely to the Department. My own ideas have all been carefully written - also orally given to Mr. Wilson. I can not see why any unnecessary person should be retained for decades at any post. As to other transfer I may be able to say a word in next letter. I have seen Mayer. At the moment my judgment is that Lee is better for work here. The other man in Germany who might become Counsellor is Mr. Jenkins now here. Geist could serve as acting Consul General and no new man is needed. We have too many; and amount of business work decreases each month, or nearly that. I do not believe in having a single needless person in the Service, even if some powerful business man does protest.

I am leaving for a short vacation and hope to ease off this pressure a little. While on leave (vacation) I shall be at Buedingen Sanatorium, Kinstanz, Germany, and may be able to see Mayer. I have no objection to real American jews, but I think six or eight here now and another coming, who would be counted as of the race, might raise a question.

Your address of 1930 greatly interests me. Owsley was one of my students at Chicago where he took his doctorate. You may laugh when I say I have more than fifty in the country. If our judges could envisage our history as you do we should have much less trouble - one thing is certain we must readjust our economic life. If we can not stop corporations from robbing our people democracy is going to fail.

Yours,  
William E. Dodd

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American Embassy, Berlin

Sept. 17, 1935.

Dear Judge Moore:

The enclosed copies of the Sturmer show the attitude of official Germany toward the Jews. The pictures and short stories underneath are about the most violent attacks since my residence began here. Streicher is an intimate of Hitler and his activity of this sort is recorded all over the country. This morning two elderly Jews, born and brought up in the U.S. and not citizens or subjects of Germany, brought their tales of distress and anxiety to me. They are in sad plight, one poor, the other wealthy. I wonder whether anything can be done.

Yours sincerely,

William E. Dodd

September 27, 1935.

Dear Dr. Dodd:

I have just received your note of the 17th instant with the newspaper enclosures.

I suppose that there are hundreds of such cases as the two you mention, and I do not see that there is anything we can do.

I hope you will receive my letter enclosing the President's memorandum with reference to your leave next year. If what the President says is not sufficiently clear, I will take the matter up with him again on his return here in the course of a month.

Mr. Lee was in here yesterday and spoke of you with great admiration. The other day some person unknown to me stated to an official here that our establishment in Berlin includes twenty-six Jews, which Mr. Wilson and I have no idea is the fact. He also stated that Mrs. Lewin is very free in discussing anti-Semitic policies of the German Government and, if that is true, you may perhaps wish to check her. Of course, I perfectly well know you desire her transfer, and I only wish that were possible.

As your best friend I shall take the liberty of saying we are sorry not to hear from you more frequently. Telegrams from you discussing the German political and economic trend in general,  
and

The Honorable  
William E. Dodd,  
American Embassy,  
Berlin.

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and the attitude of Germany so far as it can be ascertained with respect to the Memel situation and the Italian-Ethiopian situation might prove very helpful. Quite probably Mr. White does not get around sufficiently to gather information that is conceivably obtainable. I think we will know in a day or two if, and when, he will be replaced by Mr. Mayer.

There have been sufficient rains during the last few weeks to freshen up the northern Virginia country, which now looks very fine, and the weather at this time is delightful.

Very truly your friend,

RWR:AMM

Embassy of the United States  
Berlin  
October 29, 1935

Dear Judge Moore:

Your letter of the 16th and address in Richmond received yesterday morning. I need hardly say I agree with you both in your speech and also in what you say about Roosevelt's re-election. But you will have known all about the contest before this reaches you.

In this personal note I feel impelled to say our country is going to save modern democracy, if it is to be saved, the next ten years. The President's task is more difficult than undertakings of his predecessors. There must be constructive and far-reaching economic changes. Big Business leaders are almost identical in attitudes to the gradual abolition of slavery before 1860. They mean to rule the nation against majorities and if present evolution of vast proletariats continues either a communistic or fascist drive will be made - and who can predict the results? The country has confidence in Roosevelt as it had in Jefferson, but you know Jefferson failed in all major undertakings, in spite of my friend Bower's interesting story just out. How to institute real reforms with the Supreme Court vetoing all great moves is a hard question to answer.

You will have read this morning Goring's challenging speech to England, France and the United States. With communists fighting Germans and Italians in Spain, we have the sad picture of dictatorships bent upon dominating Europe - Germany now far the most powerful of all dictatorships. For full two years Germany has been pouring money into Belgium (not a little into Holland) to aid the Rexists there; we have evidence of similar efforts in Sweden (permission to have war planes land there), Switzerland and of course Spain. Since I returned in early August Roseley, (English Fascist leader) like Degrielle of Belgium, has made visits to Goebbels here to learn how to win control of London, thence England. The best informed Englishman here brings me the facts from time to time which the London Times also receives, but refuses to publish. Millions of dollars a year are paid for this Nazi propoganda outside Germany at same time merchants are denied the right to import meat, butter etc. so much needed.

A distinguished German University man and an eminent Foreign Office official (Von Neurath, Deickhoff and other chiefs having surrendered) have sadly informed me that intellectual Germany will be lost if this goes on five years more. They said hundreds of the best scholars and teachers have been dismissed, that Nazi students are engaged as spies in all classes and seminars. They say our civilization is rapidly passing away. Reports from our Consul at Koln, No. 173, and the Consul at Stuttgart, No. 219, show how far single

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single party domination has gone. Our reports on the churches show that Protestants and Catholics have both lost out, in spite of bitter resistance on the part of a few who hoped to be killed. Thus the best educated people in Europe have surrendered to semi-barbarism. The reason is the German people have always been defeated when they revolted for liberty: the religious liberty uprising of 1524-25, the terrible 30th years war, the Prussian resistance and general uprising of 1845 and the sad failure of democracy 1919 -1933. These influences and the false teaching and writing of history have made the poor Germans hopeless of popular resistance. Now they are organized for war as never before. If the "holy" Fuhrer succeeds another two years there will be no hope for western democracies.

What can our distant country do? We have a hundred great corporations many of which are lending aid to armaments here, have more than a billion dollars of American stockholders money here, not to mention unpayable debts. These corporations (Du Ponts especially) do not report their situation here. I see no way of escape but through control of corporations of interstate and international operations and it seems to me all the British dominions (England as well) must write, or cooperate economically for world peace, make no loans, sell no exports on credit and finally boycott any people that starts a war. If Latin America also joined, war could be stopped.

Pardon so much small talk from me. The situation for a democrat here is most trying as it must be for a President who knows history as ours showed he does at N. Y. yesterday. God bless the second regime.

Yours as ever,  
W. E. D.

PS: I wonder if I can not serve our people better at home than here where no attention is ever paid to anything we say - except by poor University folk.