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December 16, 1949

Falls Church, Virginia

Dear Sid:

Your letter of November 18, 1949, arrived here on November 29, 1949.

I am delighted that Mr. Dulles referred the matter to you as I was most anxious to learn the wishes of the authorities in this matter. My letter to him of October 13, 1949, was a second attempt to reach the authorities. It was prompted by an apparent deterioration in the security position of my friend after I wrote to you on June 5, 1949. My friend reported in August, September and November that no contact with him of any nature had been made since July, 1948, when T.R. talked with him by telephone. It seemed, therefore, that either my June letter had gone astray, or that officialdom had washed its hands of the matter. I am glad to learn that neither is the case and that you are "equally interested in his well-being".

You asked for any facts at hand which might be pertinent. Apparently he has a good job and is liked by his American bosses. (His efficiency rating for January through June, 1949, of which I have a copy, gave him an "excellent" rating in every category.) However, nature won't be denied and he has been publicly engaged since June, 1948. His friends and those of his "fiancee" (a former secretary to AMG and, earlier, to a bank) repeatedly inquire "Why don't you get married?" His lack of a birth certificate and ancillary papers in his present name (he has them in his old name) block a marriage in document - happy Germany. So, his position daily becomes more conspicuous by virtue of his unexplained reluctance at the altar. Certainly many males can stave off the bonds of matrimony for a protracted grace period, but eighteen months is a bit noteworthy. No one currently believes my friend's excuses about the delays and the prospective in-laws especially are becoming

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more curious to learn the real reason.

Also there is the problem of his being able to resume law practice sometime. All his professional credentials are in his old name. Attorneys who did the same war work as he have been back in their old posts, he says, since 1947.

A solution, he admits, would seem to require his moving from his present locality to another city and using his real documents there. These, of course, for ration cards, etc., may have to be brought down to date and this he believes could best be done through American, rather than German officials. A former AMG boss (the only American who knew his story and who liked his work and apparently was discreet) has moved to another city some considerable distance away and could doubtless, he says, assist him in the transmutation. All my friend seems to ask is authorization for him to go to this official and to get a little confirmation (from me individually would be enough, he feels) if necessary.

In sum, Sid, I would think that security can only be harmed by this endless engagement. A removal elsewhere would, I believe, increase security. Also, though it may not be of official interest, I think that the man deserves some consideration as to his own private life. Certainly it is not the official thought that he is to live out his life unable to marry or take up the profession in which he had twelve years training? If that is so, why cannot the problem be faced now? The tempting easy view must be to pass lightly over unproductive friends, and to report back that they are "perfectly happy" without even talking to them, but won't that attitude be regretted if security breaks down?

On the whole, I believe that my friend has been remarkably patient and loyal in view of what must appear to him to be indifference to his situation. He has put no pressure on me. I write at length and try to present a solution to his problem because I feel it the secure and also the fair thing to do. Nor have I forgotten that on more than one occasion he, without request or suggestion, went out unarmed in the dark to protect me from attack which had three times been attempted against himself and which he believed lay in store for me.

If there is any help I can give, please don't hesitate to call on me. I should be glad to advise my friend to go ahead with his virtual self-help solution, if you so desire. That has the advantage of making the American interest appear purely historical rather than present. If there is nothing you want done here, I would appreciate knowing of any action contemplated elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Dick