

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

3-13 p 1/2

December 12, 1939

Dear Dad:-

Once again I have let you wait a long time for an answer, and I am very sorry. The reason this time is that I have been very busy sending Christmas letters to all my friends in Europe, which, of course, had to be sent out first. In fact, under present conditions of mail transport, I doubt whether they will arrive in time for the holidays, but no doubt the people will be glad to get them anyway. It was a tough job, writing about seven letters to Stuttgart, and all of them had to be different, as I am sure the recipients will compare notes.

I am enclosing check for \$25 for Janie to do my Christmas shopping with. I want her to cover everybody except herself and you. I will take care of you two personally. I would greatly appreciate having some idea what Janie wants for Christmas. When you were here we talked about what to get for you, but I forgot to ask her what she wants. If this sum does not prove to be sufficient, she need only write and ask for more. I suppose she will have to be getting the package off for Florida soon.

At Thanksgiving, I asked Janie to look in the closet in the front room where my books are and see if she couldn't find my Christmas card list. It is inside the book "Hamilton and Jefferson", by Claude Bowers, which is in a red cover. I will need it very soon in order to get the cards under way, as I will have to write to several people to whom I have not written regular letters for some time. That is a bad system, to have a lot of correspondence to catch up by means of Christmas cards, but lots of people do it that way. Incidentally, I got a card from Philip Williams and his wife today. Phil, as you recall, is in Rio de Janeiro.

I am sorry to say that I am not going to be able to stay home during the week between Christmas and New Year's. The passport section, which was scheduled to be here earlier, postponed their appearance because of the Browder trial, and they have given them the only time which they had open. I regret it very much, and I shall try to broach the subject to Mr. Huddle, but if they are going to be here, I must stay, as that is one of the most important phases of our work, and I know practically nothing about it yet. They will probably give a lot of information on how to detect false passports, in addition to the regular stuff on the citizenship laws.

3-13 p2/2

I shall leave here Friday night, December 22nd, and will arrive on the American the following morning. I shall have to leave Monday night on the same train to make the return trip. It is expected at this time that the announcements regarding the posts will be made either just before or just after New Year's. So far we have no idea of where we will be sent. I had my talk with Mr. Shaw recently, but we stuck strictly to general subjects, and my personal affairs, either past or present, were not discussed.

It is now time for me to be on my way, and since there is no more news, I will conclude. Love and best wishes to all of you.

