

November 8, 1949

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Dear Harold:

In response to the 7th paragraph of your letter of November 2, William Fowler is still located in Belgrade and is not expected back in the near future. I have talked with Mr. Henry Deimel at some length. Sometime this month he is due to leave for New Delhi although the precise date has not been set. It is therefore possible that he would not be available as a witness even if we wanted him unless something were done to postpone his departure. Mr. Deimel was extremely guarded in his responses to the specific questions which you set forth in your letter. In response to question (1) he thought that it was not likely that a carbon copy would have been sent unless Mr. Hawkins believed that Mr. Sayre would have had some use for a carbon. In response to question (2) he believes that a carbon would not have been attached but that under certain circumstances Mr. Hawkins might have included one. In response to question (3) Mr. Deimel believes that the ribbon copy would normally be forwarded and that if a carbon were used it would usually be a carbon copy of the original but not invariably so. In response to question (4) he believes that if a translation had been made it would probably be attached to the aide memoire and he believes that in such a situation a translation would be made. In response to question (5) he believes that Mr. Pasvolsky's office was located somewhat south of Mr. Hawkins' office, perhaps 5 or 6 doorways away. As he remembers it the hall from the side entrance came in between and Mr. Pasvolsky's office was one which juttred out from the face of the building in the same way that Mr. Hawkins' office did. He drew me a rough sketch which probably is not useful but I enclose it in any event. He also stated that he was not sure as to the time that Mr. Pasvolsky occupied the office in question. In response to question (6) Mr. Pasvolsky did work very closely with officers of the Trade Agreements Division. In answer to question (7) officers of the Trade Agreements Division would consult frequently with Mr. Pasvolsky and he believes that Wadleigh probably did also. Wadleigh was expert on blocked exchange and other trade restrictions.

In order to attempt to determine the location of the Division's working files which you requested in a previous letter, I asked

Harold Rosenwald, Esq.

November 8, 1949

Mr. Deimel about it. He states that he believes that the files were pretty well scattered in the individual offices of the people in the Division. He believes the largest number of the files would have been in Mr. Hawkins' outer office under the supervision of one of the three girls working there.

I do not know how definite the testimony is which you expect you could get from Mr. Darlington and Mr. Hawkins. I am afraid that Mr. Deimel's testimony would be so qualified that it would not carry any great conviction. But he is an honest man and would be willing to give as much information as he could.

Also today I talked with Drusilla Epps. I enclose a statement of the substance of our conversation signed by her and witnessed by me. I think the most troublesome thing about the statement is her belief that she did not work for the Hisses in 1938. I do not know how well you have established the date of the Christmas party at which Alger's mother was present. Drusilla had no doubt that she was there at that time. I asked Drusilla whether she had been subpoenaed for the last trial and whether she was present at any time during the trial. She stated that she was neither subpoenaed nor present. I told her that we might wish to use her as a witness in this case and I believe that there will be no difficulty in getting her if you decide that you do want her.

I am sending you the plans drawn by Mr. Collier. He had drawn the plans of Volta Place and 1245 30th Street for the FBI and merely gave me blue prints. I do not think he had drawn 1247 30th Street for them but in all probability they have asked for prints. I had asked Mr. Collier to include the square footage of the rooms at Volta Place so that they could be compared with the rooms at 1245. He omitted to do this and I am trying to check with him to remedy the omission.

I enclose a clipping from this morning's Washington Times Herald and express the hope that it is not I who has been considered "high handed" in ordering State Department employees around.

I have talked with Frank Duvall about who is available who was in the telegraph room in 1938. He suggested the possibility of using Mrs. Hester Auld who was in the telegraph room in 1938 and has been there at all times since then. Unless I hear from you to the contrary I shall talk with her and see what kind of information she could give as to practices there in the critical period.

I have checked with Mrs. Henry F. Pringle who lived at 1247 30th Street from September 20, 1943, to October, 1944. She states that she had the living room walls and in fact the entire first floor repainted between September 15 and September 20 when she moved in. She states that she had the walls painted a pink or a sort of

Harold Rosenwald, Esq.

November 8, 1949

peach color. Neither she nor her husband is certain as to the color before. They were inclined to believe they were grey but when I told them that Mr. O'Brien had thought they were green in his time they seemed to remember that they were green. I asked Mrs. Pringle where I could locate the previous tenant, Mr. Charles Norman Fitts. She did not know but she added a few details to the previous indications that Mr. Fitts may not be a very reliable person. So far I have heard stories that he was separated from his wife, lived with two women, drank excessively and left the house in filthy condition. But if the walls were grey or green when he lived there he probably was not the person, if any, who gave the Chambers access to the premises.

Mr. Collier has told me over the telephone that the square footage on Volta Place for the previous plans is as follows:

Kitchen	67 sq. feet
Dining room	150 sq. feet
Living room	342 sq. feet
Bathroom	52 sq. feet
Front bedroom	133 sq. feet
Middle bedroom	150 sq. feet
Back bedroom	87 sq. feet

He is incorporating this information in a letter to me which I will send you.

Very truly yours,

John F. Davis

Enclosures