

Prague, 24 th of October 38.

Dear Alvin!

I am sorry I was not able recently to send you along any Czechoslovakian stamps, as there have not been any new issues lately. It is not to be presumed either that there will be any for some time on account of the recent unhappy events. In any case I am sending you along some stamps of ^{the} more recent issues, as I do not remember distinctly whether you have had these already.

You will of course have read in the press what a catastrophe has overtaken our country, a catastrophe which has upset our whole life, which formerly ran so smoothly. Politically deserted by its allies our republic was compelled to help the cause of peace at an all too great loss to itself by giving up a great part of its territory to Germany, Poland and Hungary. My father's home town Aussig has fallen to Germany. Fortunately my father and my sister Erna were able to get away before the town was occupied, but at the cost of leaving behind their entire house property /three houses/ They are living with us here in Prague. An unavoidable consequence of these events will be that the influence of Germany will greatly increase in this country and you can imagine what this will mean to us Jews living here, and how it will threaten our means of livelihood. Even now strong anti-semitic tendencies are making themselves felt, such tendencies as never even existed before in this country. These tendencies will probably not be able to be kept in bounds and one may even presume that they will spread all over Europe. Nothing will remain therefore to do but to adapt oneself to the circumstances and to consider emigrating from Europe.

I am writing therefore to ask you whether there is a possibility of emigrating to the U.S.A. where I and my wife /we are childless/ might find some occupation. I am 43 years of age and have been for the last 20 years a clerk in a large bank. My wife is 39 and for the last 17 years has been running, as proprietress, a first class dressmaking establishment. She has a number of workpeople and enjoys a very good reputation here in Prague, as she is very diligent, has a first class knowledge of her line and has very good taste. We both know English fairly well, but of course do not speak perfectly, but we are sure that with the knowledge we already have we should soon pick it up. I have heard from acquaintances that to obtain a permit to enter the States one must have a so-called affidavit from an American citizen. As you are yourself a lawyer I am sure that you know all about it and could procure us such a document, so that when we see no other way out of our difficulties we could find work over there. Naturally I should refund all fees connected with the procuring of such an affidavit. Please do not be annoyed that I trouble you with this matter, but if you yourself were here and could see things with your own eyes I am sure you would understand why I make such a request. You may be quite sure that we shall not be a burden to anybody, as in the first line my wife is sure to find some occupation in her line, and as concerns myself if not just in my own line I should look for any other occupation, even if it were manual work in the first time.

Hoping that you will not take it amiss that I am making you this request and that you will be able to help me, I remain, with the kindest regards to yourself and your wife and thanking you in advance for any trouble you may be put to,

Yours very sincerely

J. J. J.