

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bern, December 7, 1950.

Dear Dr. Lüthi:

As you are aware, the Legation has been in contact with your office through Dr. Balsiger on a number of occasions during the past two weeks with regard to the request of the American Consul in Geneva, Mr. Robert E. Ward, Jr., to visit Charles Davis, an American citizen, under detention without formal charges in the St. Antoine Prison in Geneva.

The Legation has based its request that Mr. Ward be allowed to see Mr. Davis on international usage and comity. The Legation has had no reason to believe that Mr. Davis has been subjected to any unusual treatment during his detention. Furthermore, on December 5th, when Mr. Ward saw Mr. Davis, he registered no complaint.

The Legation is now anxious that Mr. Ward have another opportunity to see Mr. Davis. Mr. Ward's request to the police authorities at Geneva has met with the response that the matter would have to be referred to the police authorities at Bern. I am therefore writing you now as a matter of urgency to request that Mr. Ward be again allowed to see Mr. Davis tomorrow, December 8th.

Today I have received a letter from Mr. Davis, dated December 1st, in which he complains that he had been under detention for a period of two weeks without being allowed to speak to an American representative or to an attorney. He did, in fact, see Mr. Ward on the fifth, at which time he made no mention of his desire to have legal counsel.

Dr. Werner Lüthi,

Procurer General,

Department of Justice and Police,

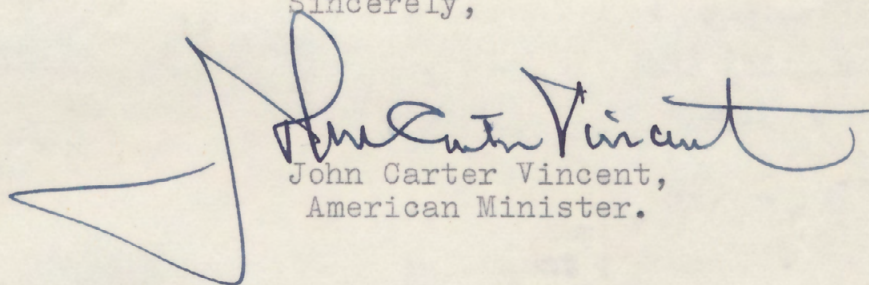
Bern.

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However, I should like to be informed whether Mr. Davis has made request for legal counsel and, if so, on what grounds his request has been denied. Furthermore I wish to express my concern over Mr. Davis' continued detention without having formal charges brought against him.

Let me repeat, as a matter of urgency, my request that Mr. Ward be allowed to see Davis at once and obtain directly from him a report as to his situation as set forth in his letter to me and which, it appears, was not fully explained to Mr. Ward when he saw him on December 5th.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Carter Vincent". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

John Carter Vincent,
American Minister.