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[Letterhead: Palast Hotel, Berlin W.]

If any friends care to read – all right – M.S.A.

We now think of going to Vevey, Switzerland, Mrs. Avery's, Thursday, June 23 – M.S.A.

June 19, 1904

Dear Friends at Home,

The Germany "Congress of Women" closed yesterday. The morning session lasted from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. without intermission, many standing during the entire time, so you can understand the enthusiasm of the two weeks meetings.

In the afternoon 4 o' the large hall of the "Philharmonic" was literally packed, standing room, galleries, balconies & all.

The parting words of Lady Aberdeen, Frau Stritt, Frau Langie, Carrie Chapman Catt, Rev. Anna Shaw, Susan B. & others, were splendid & well received. – A grand success.

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But the last & final "send off" was last evening by the "City Fathers", although quite a proportion of the expenses came, in all probability, from the taxes paid into the treasury by the city mothers, --A banquet was given by the city, in the splendid City Hall to the "Congress of Women".—I understand that tickets were issued to 600 people, but many estimate the number present to be 1,000, some 1500 & many as much as 2000. As none of our particular company can read a line of the reports in the papers this morning, we must be content with either of these figures – But it was, by far, the biggest thing of the kind that any of us had ever witnessed. – When the doors of refreshment rooms were thrown open, the table with decorations of American beauties & other flowers. the number & size of table, the brilliant electric lighting, the magnificent pillars & beautiful mirrors, was a sight for a modest American to see.

The crowd surged in. One Alderman (all were dressed in uniform) was seated at

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each table. The speakers all at one table, with Aldermen or great men interspersed (many of whom could not speak a word of English to his neighbor, a jolly situation), and at the end of each course a speech from a lady or gentleman, mostly in German.

The souvenir for the occasion was a Russian Bear, each filled with sweetmeats, and carrying a beautiful American Rose – tied with their colors – in their embrace.

Bottle of wine, & pitchers of lemonade seasoned with wine, or something else, were many, but an appeal for water was finally heeded, & a bottle of that kind of fluid was set before me.

Fish, roast-beef, boiled ham and tongue were the first courses, then strawberries, jellies & the sweets. We sat down at 8:15 and came away at 10:30 or about 11:00, but today we are told that the large majority did not leave before 12. – It, with the many receptions, the decorating of the several halls, where a half dozen speakers were talking upon different topics, keeping the

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perfect round of pleasure & work in harmony, was a task before which any committee might stand aghast. But it has been done, and done well, with apparently as little friction as might occur in an affair of less importance. The beauty of it all is, that so far as we can see, it is the more intelligent, not merely the well to do but wealthy people, who have become so interested, and have made the whole thing so popular, and if they continue as they have commenced, it is but fair to presume, that the women of Germany, will become, politically, the equals of their fathers, husbands, and sons long before their American sisters will be thus honored.

It has been an inspiration to us all, and if we can only infuse enough of it among the people of the United States, we may live to see them more just to their women – with laws which will give to them all rights & privileges which are granted to men, Then, and not until then, can they accomplish more & better work in trying to make the world better – With love to all-

Very truly, Mary S. Anthony