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Palace Hotel Bruxelles,
January 16, 1916.

My. Dear Mr. Greene:

This is merely to confirm the cable I sent you this morning which reads as follows:

"Rockefeller Foundation, New York
Number two. Leaving for Warsaw Thursday via Berlin remain Poland one week then Servia ten days then home via London. Please advise office and family. Cable instructions and home news American Embassy Berlin. Stop. Situation here and Northern France admirably handled no serious suffering but extreme suffering would begin in thirty days if service interrupted. See letter. Stop."

As I am allowed to send this only by special dispensation of the Chief of the Censor Bureau and as it must pass the censor in Holland and again in England it will be obvious that it is going to be impossible to send any report either by cable or post that will give you any detailed information. Suffice it to say for the present that it will not be necessary for you to consider making any contributions to the work here for clothing or anything else for some time if at all.

The situation in Poland is reported as most distressing and much worse than the situation in the interior of Serbia. The relief of either or both depends upon the consent of the Allies and as they are already tightening up on Belgium, it is going to be exceedingly difficult to obtain such consent.

I am being shown every possible courtesy by the German civil and military officials, which has resulted in my going everywhere and seeing everything I can think of that pertains to the investigation of conditions here and both the Belgian and American relief delegates agree with my conclusions as expressed above.

I can and probably shall send a written report on Poland from Berlin but no recommendations can be made until the matter has been thrashed out with the British Foreign office by Mr. Hoover and myself so that to cable our findings in either Poland or Servia might prejudice our case in London.

These inevitable delays in attempting to relieve several hundred thousand people who are reported without shelter, fuel or food, with the exception of a few potatoes, are fearfully exasperating.

Casper Whitney, who is the C. R. B. delegate for Northern France is going with me as the representative of the C. R. B. and as Mr. Hoover is still quite sick with an abscess of the ear, much run down from over work, and the tremendous strain incident to solving these problems that are so vital to so many people against almost insuperable odds.

I wish the people of the United States could realize what the name Rockefeller stands for in Belgium, the gratitude of the Belgians is touching and I find the C. R. B. and the Comite' National have given full credit to the Foundation for its generous contributions which were among the first to arrive and relieve their terrible anxiety as well as to stimulate others to give. If anyone of that name ever comes to Belgium he will be killed by kindness.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed,) F. C. Walcott

I would appreciate it if you would share any part of this letter with Mr. B. and Mrs Walcott, Englewood, New Jersey, as it is unwise to correspond. I am in the best possible health and absorbed in this work.

Commission
Belgium
Poland