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December 8, 1916.

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

As Your Excellency is aware, the Rockefeller Foundation has maintained a War Relief Commission in Europe for the past two years, the function of this Commission being to investigate the needs that exist in the various war areas and to recommend the necessary measures for meeting them or the agencies through which help can be most advantageously given. Whenever our agents have been in France during the past year they have received many representations, chiefly from volunteer organizations or individuals, in regard to the need of prompt measures to prevent the spread of tuberculosis which has flared up to a distressing extent under the conditions existing in these times of war. Our attitude and that of our agents toward these representations has been one of keen sympathy and a desire to secure a comprehensive view of the situation as a whole; but we have not been willing to rush in with suggestions or indiscriminate contributions of money, for it has seemed to us that of all the emergencies created by the war this increase of tuberculosis was one which especially required a calm and deliberate consideration. We have to do here not merely with the succor of those unfortunate persons who are already stricken with the disease in its acute form, but also with the proper isolation of the many new foci of infection. Each of these foci involves not only the life of an individual, but probably the lives of hundreds of others. From

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the point of view of sanitary administration the problem is so large that no adequate method of coping with it by private agencies is to be thought of, and yet when a rational program has once been adopted by government there will doubtless be found in that program certain important functions which the authorities will assign to private benevolence. From every point of view it seems most desirable that all who are interested in bearing aid to France in the fight against tuberculosis should recognize the fundamental importance of coordinating all efforts along lines approved by government so as to achieve the maximum benefit.

In considering what service, if any, the Rockefeller Foundation might render in this emergency, it has seemed to our Trustees that if by any means acceptable to the French Government and people the recent experience of our own country in the hygienic and therapeutic aspects of tuberculosis, with special reference to administrative methods and costs, could be made available, this would perhaps be an initial contribution worth making, and that it would have the effect among other things of giving an intelligent direction to American volunteer activities already in this field.

The Trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation have given mature consideration to this subject in the light of a careful preliminary report made by Professor Wallace C. Sabine, our representative in Paris. This report was recently presented in person by Mr. Warwick Green the Director of our War Relief Commission who has returned from Europe deeply impressed with the importance of the matter. The Trustees have now authorized me to approach Your Excellency with reference to the possibility of your discussing it further with our representatives. It happens that Mr. Frederic C. Walcott who has also represented us in Europe, is now in this country, and we should be glad if you would consent to see him and Mr. Warwick Greene at an early date.

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If you found it possible to grant them an interview, they would hope to bring with them Dr. Herman M. Biggs, Commissioner of Health of the State of New York, and a member of the Board of Scientific Directors of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, whom we consider the leading authority in the United States on tuberculosis viewed as a problem of public health. The Rockefeller Foundation would have the greatest confidence in any suggestions that Dr. Biggs might make after having had the benefit of a conference with you, and I need not assure you in advance that it would give us the profoundest satisfaction if you should be able to point out to our representatives the steps by which the assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation might be proffered in a manner acceptable to your Government.

I remain, dear Sir, with high regard,

Your obedient servant,

Jerome D. Greene

His Excellency M. J. J. Jusserand,
Ambassador of the French Republic,
Washington, D.C.

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