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War  
(General)

November 30, 1939

Dear Mike:

I cabled you on November 28th as follows:

"Letters through one hundred five all received including carbons only of eighty-six ninety-two and ninety-seven."

The originals of your Letters Number 86, 92 and 97 have never arrived. Whether they were seized by the censor, or what happened to them, I cannot imagine. There didn't seem to be anything in them that a censor could possibly object to.

We are in the throes of preparations for our Board meetings next week which will be held at Williamsburg, Virginia, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the 5th, 6th and 7th of December. I expect that we shall have a full meeting of the Trustees, and of course the situation in Europe will be thoroughly discussed. My expectation is that shortly after the first of the year several officers will come to Europe, although a good deal will depend on how the discussion develops in Williamsburg. As the matter stands today, Alan Gregg is planning to come, and so are Joe Willits and A. J. Warren. Mr. Rockefeller expressed some doubt the other day whether I should leave the pilothouse just at this time, and I shall have to wait until after the Board meetings to send you a definite answer on this point.

November 30, 1939

The reports from Paris and La Baule are now coming in thick and fast, and we spend our days and nights reading them. They are very interesting and very illuminating. I would like to sound just one note of caution - which all of you undoubtedly are already keeping in mind - and that is that the Foundation, as an organization, is not interested in helping either side win this war. We have our own personal sympathies as officers, and I assume that they are on the side of the Allies, but the causes and ideals which the Rockefeller Foundation is trying to serve transcend the present conflicts. I say this because we shall be under pressure from time to time to support enterprises whose real aim, if carefully and shrewdly analyzed, is to further a war purpose, rather than a scientific or cultural purpose, and we ought to be quick to detect such disguises. It is difficult, of course, to detach ourselves from our own personal sympathies in this business, but detachment and objectivity are absolutely necessary if we are going to maintain ourselves as an international force for the future.

When the meetings are over I shall have a lot more to write about, and I shall try to catch up on some of your recent letters whose questions are not yet perhaps completely answered.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Selskar M. Gunn  
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France

RAYMOND B. FOSDICK