

The Secretary reported the receipt of a communication by cable from the Director of the War Relief Commission, stating that there was urgent need for the relief of five hundred children living under deplorable physical and moral conditions within the fighting zone in that part of Belgium not occupied by the German forces; that the charity of the Swiss people had already provided for seven hundred and sixty children who had been similarly situated, but that the burden of caring for five hundred additional children was too heavy for the Swiss to undertake; that the Queen of the Belgians had appealed to America through the War Relief Commission of the Rockefeller Foundation to come to the rescue in this emergency; that arrangements had been made for the protection, maintenance, and education of the children in the canton of Fribourg under the management of the International Young Girls' Protection Society, and that this management had been found after careful investigation to be efficient, economical, and sympathetic; that suitable provisions could be made for the control and supervision of the work in the interests of American contributors; and finally that the undertaking had been sanctioned by both the Belgian and the Swiss Governments, and in the opinion of the Director of the War Relief Commission would prove a highly constructive and humanitarian service. The estimated cost of the undertaking was stated by the Director of the War Relief Commission as amounting to \$73,000 for the first year, including transportation and the preparation of suitable quarters, or 40¢ per capita per day, and \$51,000 for a second year, or 28¢ per capita per day. It was understood, however, that the children should be returned to Belgium at the end of the war if that should occur at any time within two years.

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The Secretary further stated that he had brought these facts to the attention of members of the Executive Committee, and that they had informally authorized him to inquire of the Belgian relief agencies in the United States as to their willingness to contribute to the undertaking, and that as a result of such inquiries, the Belgian Relief Fund of New York had appropriated \$25,000 outright, and the New England Belgian Relief Fund had made a cash contribution of \$2,000, and had undertaken to raise at least \$10,000. Upon the receipt of this information, and with the informal consent of members of the Executive Committee, the Secretary reported that he had instructed the Director of the War Relief Commission to authorize the removal of five hundred Belgian children to Switzerland in accordance with the arrangements described, with the understanding that funds would be provided from America for the maintenance of the children subject to the continuing approval of the management by the Director of the War Relief Commission. Whereupon it was, on motion,

RESOLVED that the foregoing instructions to the Director of the War Relief Commission be ratified and approved, and that the Foundation will from time to time appropriate such sums within the limits above mentioned as may be necessary to pay the cost incurred over and above such amounts as shall be contributed from other sources.

R.F.2178. RESOLVED that the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) be, and it is hereby, appropriated for expenditure under the direction of the War Relief Commission for the protection, maintenance, and education of Belgian children in Switzerland.