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February 1, 1948

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Major General Lowell W. Rooks
Director General, UNRRA
Washington, D. C.

My dear General Rooks:

I have read the proof of "The Story of UNRRA" with great interest and satisfaction. It recites very simply the story of the greatest and most successful international organization of its kind in the history of the world. It describes graphically what UNRRA did to prevent wide-spread starvation, to curb sweeping epidemics, and to avert economic collapse in many countries.

UNRRA provided not only food, medicines, clothing and shelter, but laid the groundwork for economic recovery in many areas of Europe and Asia. It worked at a time when the world was in chaos. It had to struggle against a shortage of supplies, funds and manpower; but in time it overcame most of its obstacles. UNRRA was the only thing that saved many millions of people in Europe and Asia from starvation, fatal disorder and black despair.

I had the honor of serving as first Director General of UNRRA from 1943 to 1946, and I shall always look back with the deepest satisfaction on the part which I was privileged to play in this greatest of all relief and rehabilitation undertakings. With the support of an unusually loyal and efficient organization in this country and abroad, we set up an organization which in more than a score of countries carried on a wide-flung program to save millions of men, women and children from starvation and to bring new hope into their lives. I am deeply grateful to the fine men and women with whom I worked over these years. Some of them gave their lives in the service of UNRRA; almost all of them made great sacrifices. I am happy, too, that when I felt it necessary to step down as the first Director General, I was succeeded by two such able and devoted administrators as Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia and yourself. Since January 1947, you have carried on the work with singular devotion and success.

UNRRA will have its place in history as proof that nations and peoples can live together and work together to achieve a high purpose. I hope that it will serve as an example to the many other international organizations that succeed it.

Very sincerely yours,

Herbert H. Lehman