Hon. Herbert H. Lehman,
Director General,
United Nations Relief & Rehabilitation Administration,
Atlantic City, N. J.

Dear Governor:

I take this occasion in behalf of the J.D.C., its officers and members, not merely to congratulate you on the assumption of your new high office, but also to pledge you our support in every way that lies within our power as individuals and as an organization.

We were therefore greatly disappointed when we heard from Mr. Baerwald of your inability to come to the Annual Meeting of the J.D.C., on December 5th, in New York City, when we expect to have a very large group of men and women deeply interested in the overseas problem and the program of the J.D.C. Naturally, we can understand how deeply preoccupied you are with the new and enormous demands on your time in connection with the UNRRA.

If you cannot find the possibility of addressing our meeting, we all would much appreciate having a letter from you that can be presented to the meeting and made public. I had thought of attempting to draft something for you, but the situation today is so different from what it was before, that it would seem much preferable for you to say what you feel is worthwhile and proper to state at this time, in relation to all your other problems. If you wish me to draft a statement, please let me know.

If I may venture to suggest a thought, it is the following: The future is beset with many uncertainties; one thing is quite clear - that an organization like the J.D.C., dealing as it does, not merely with current needs but preparing to meet large and important obligations in the post-war world, deserves the support, the interest, the sympathy and understanding of all men and of all groups. Its experience for almost thirty years, its widespread operations, its contacts not only with our own Government but with others, the excellent personnel it has assembled, place the J.D.C. in a primary position of service to our fellow-men and, more particularly, to those groups which will require special help and attention - our coreligionists in Europe.

Your long association with the J.D.C. as an officer, as a member of the Executive Committee, as Chairman of the Committee on Reconstruction, together with your knowledge of the men who gave today and have for many years given their lives to its direction and management, here and abroad, give great weight to the point that the J.D.C. deserves and should receive the confidence and help that its record justifies.
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*Member of Executive Committee
We would greatly appreciate your writing us a note of that general tenor. I make this request at the instance of the officers and members of our Executive Committee who feel strongly that word from you can do much to clarify some of the confusion and set straight the record as to the necessity for the J.D.C. to do a major job now and in the future.

With cordial, personal greetings and with best wishes for your health and success in discharging the great responsibility you have assumed as Director General of the UNRRA, believe me,

Cordially yours,

J. C. Hyman
Executive Vice-Chairman

JCH: mh