June 19, 1942

My dear Mr. Chairman:

I concur in the views expressed in your letter of June 17 with reference to further proposals to include the Red Cross in combined fund raising campaigns, and I fully agree that the Red Cross should make its war fund and membership appeals directly and separately to the people and should not participate in any joint fund raising efforts.

With the pressure of wartime work I feel the Red Cross has made a wise decision to combine the November Roll Call with its next war fund campaign in March 1943. This will not only be a distinct saving in effort and manpower but will make possible a proper spacing of the other major appeals. The nation can look forward to the month of March 1943 as Red Cross Month.

The Red Cross because of its broad interests and responsibilities is a great moral force. The generous over-subscription in response to its appeal of last December was one of the first evidences of complete national unity following our entrance into the war. The enlistment of the people in that national effort had a value and significance quite beyond the amounts of their contributions.

The character of the Red Cross and its responsibilities under International treaty and its congressional charter are such that the national interests will best be served if the Red Cross maintains direct contact with the people for the membership and support necessary for its work at home and abroad.

Yours very sincerely,

(SIGNED) Franklin D. Roosevelt