Honorable Herbert H. Lehman, Director-General
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
1344 Connecticut Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear Governor Lehman:

I regret that the brevity of my visit to Washington prevents me from appearing in person before the Congressional Committee which is now considering an additional appropriation for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. I would at least like to testify in writing, on the basis of my personal observations and experience, of the need in Europe of relief assistance.

To anyone who has personally witnessed the devastation and havoc wrought by the war in Europe, the one compelling question is not whether relief is necessary, but where it is to come from. During my travels throughout Europe, both during and after the military campaigns, I have seen cities wrecked beyond imagination, transportation systems utterly disrupted, and above all, people cold, hungry and without hope for the future. There is no doubt in my mind that the people of Europe will be subjected during the coming winter to one of the grimmest ordeals of history. In Germany this must be recognized as resulting in large part from Germany's own acts. However, the rest of Europe had this bitter situation thrust upon it.

If we are to prevent this situation from becoming so disastrous as to make men wonder whether it was worthwhile to have taken up arms against the Nazis, we in the United States, which is truly the land of plenty as compared to the rest of the world, must be prepared to discharge a very heavy responsibility. We must make our proportionate contribution to relief of the distress in Europe if our military victory is to have permanent significance.

The people of northwest Europe have fortunately reached the stage where, with financial assistance, they can make their own arrangements to survive during the coming winter. But the people of eastern Europe, Austria, the Balkans and Italy must rely in large part upon outside relief organizations.
On the basis of my observation of UNRRA's work in the field, I am confident that given continued support UNRRA will be able to perform the heavy tasks it has assumed. I am also convinced that without the support of this Government UNRRA will not be able to make any headway in bringing succor to distressed Europe.

There are now in the western areas of Germany approximately 5,000 trained UNRRA personnel who are assisting the military in the care and handling of United Nations and stateless displaced persons. UNRRA has its own central organization and its personnel are effectively operating most of the camps in which these persons are cared for. This is a remarkable achievement in the face of the many difficulties which have confronted UNRRA in its development.

In its relief activities UNRRA now has behind it that experimental period through which any relief organization must pass. The need for the services of an experienced and effective relief organization is immediate. UNRRA's experience, trained personnel and operating momentum should not be dissipated.

I would appreciate it if you would convey my regrets to the Committee for not being able to appear in person.

Sincerely yours,

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
General of the Army