Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am in receipt of your letter of April 11th.

It seems to me that the recommendation which I made for food for the starving in Europe could not have been fully understood. I was in accord with yours of March 14th proposing a general policy not one specific to any country. To reduce our recommendations to their bare bones they come to this.

1. On behalf of the people in the occupied democracies an effort should be made by the American Government to set up a widespread agreement between the belligerents and some neutral body or neutral government in order that physical degeneration and destruction of the women, children and unemployed men by starvation in the occupied democracies should be ameliorated.

2. Such agreement on the German side must give protection from requisition of their native food supplies; having a surplus of breadstuffs, they should contribute to these occupied peoples; they should give immunity from attack to mercy ships. As we have shown in our previous correspondence this is not infeasible as the German Government definitely accepts such provisions in respect to Belgium.

3. At least a trial of imports of soup kitchen materials and food for children should be allowed through the blockade if the Germans will make such undertakings.

4. Neutral commissions should be placed in each country to assure these agreements are fulfilled.

5. No food should be sent into any occupied country unless such agreements with the Germans are first obtained.

6. If the Germans refuse to make such agreements the responsibility for this holocaust of human life is clearly theirs and no longer partly blamable on the blockade. If they make such agreements and fail to adhere to them the operation must cease and again the responsibility for this loss of life is clearly theirs.
7. If the American Government cannot today successfully approach such agreements directly with Germany, then our Government should seek the approval of the British Government to passage of food through the blockade, provided some neutral government, preferably the Swiss or possibly Argentine, can secure such agreements from the Germans and will themselves undertake the neutral guardianship of the guarantees.

8. By virtue of our service to the British the American Government has the right to urge this upon the British Government as affecting important American ideals and interests.

9. If such arrangement could be brought about the lives of tens of millions of people would be saved. We cannot have future generations of these people knowing our Government, able to bring its influence, has refused to do so.

10. I do not believe the American Government, in the long corridor of history, can escape the moral responsibility of making an effort on behalf of those millions of human beings who have sacrificed their all on the altar of democracy.

11. We wish it clearly understood that neither this Committee nor its members wish to administer any such actual relief, and have before suggested that it should be done by agencies already established for such purposes and not in any way affiliated with this Committee.

Yours faithfully,

The Honorable Cordell Hull
Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.