Dear Mr. Hoover:

Representing all shades of political opinions and social points of view, we ask you to accept our profoundest gratitude for the latest proof you have given of your unselfish and patriotic readiness to serve your country and humanity at all times. At an age when most men are thinking only of rest and freedom from responsibilities, you immediately responded to President Truman's call and went overseas, in the face of the worst winter weather known abroad in decades, to report upon the German situation and what must be done by our Government to make that conquered country able to maintain itself.

This you did in an amazingly short time, in a brief but compact and convincing study which could hardly be equalled by any other American since no other citizen has had an extensive experience in dealing with foreign food and economic conditions similar to yours. Your report is also a model in the complete detachment with which you wrote it, your refusal to yield to hate or bitterness, or even to dwell upon the sins of those whose plight you studied in order to protect yourself from the charge of showing undue favoritism to the nation which plunged the world into its present desperate and desperately alarming misery.

Instead, you dwelt upon Germany's being today an economic menace to the entire world and stressed the indubitable fact that if Western civilization is to survive in Europe it must survive in Germany. You have brought out that its people have "sunk in food, warmth and shelter" to the lowest level known in a hundred years, and that their being made into a cooperative member of Western civilization "is the hope of lasting peace." Then, in the finest
historic American spirit of benevolence and justice, you ended with these words: "After all, our flag flies over these people. That flag means something besides military power." Nothing else that has been said gives a similar expectation that our experiment in controlling a European nation will in the end be worthy of our country and its ideals.

In your entire career you have shown your realization that the greatest glory of the American flag has been its humanitarian leadership wherever need existed. Your vision has never been restricted to the confines of the American hemisphere, or to those whose ideals were ours—witness your magnificent aid to starving Russia after the First World War. But this is only one way in which you have set a most admirable example to our nation. It has been recently said of you that you have been personifying "the conscience of America" in international affairs. We are happy to approve this characterization, to express to you again our profoundest gratitude for the enlightened service with which you are rounding out your years of patriotic devotion, and to assure you that it will never be forgotten.

Sincerely and cordially yours,