Your Excellency,

In those days when the fate of our people at home was dark, when the small democracy of my country was barely living, when there was not yet a legal basis for our Government abroad, when its representatives were "men without a country" — in those times you understood the sacrifice of the Czechoslovak democracy and proclaimed, on March 7th, "The Czechoslovak Day" in your State.

Today, when the Government of the United States recognized our Government in London, headed by our constitutional President Edvard Beneš, when all our work here has been placed on a legal basis, when I again represent "a country", I feel it my solemn duty to express to Your Excellency my thanks for your democratic stand and the thanks of my people at home, who until now have been unable to give expression to their gratitude.

A proverb of my nation says "only in time of need will you reckon your friends"; I would like to underline the fact that my nation, in the long course of its history, ever stood for truth and justice and never forgot those who stretched helpful hands in times of distress. And this will hold true also in the future. My nation will not forget.

With my deep thanks, which I am expressing today in my function of an official representative of the Czechoslovak Republic, as recognized by the Government of the United States, I am, Your Excellency,

Respectfully yours,

His Excellency
Herbert H. Lehman,
Governor of the State of New York,
Albany, New York.