April 3, 1946

His Excellency
Dr. H. H. Kung
Fan Chuang
Chungking, China

Dear Dr. Kung:

I was very happy to receive your letter of March 7 which came to me by bearer. It was good to hear from you again, but I regret that because of ill health you have been compelled to relieve your self from executive responsibilities in the Chinese Government.

As you may know, I too unfortunately have been compelled to ask to be relieved from the executive and administrative duties which I have been carrying on in UNRRA for several years. I am leaving UNRRA with a very heavy heart, but with confidence that we have built well for the future and that the work will go on to even greater achievement. It is a source of very great satisfaction to have received so many expressions of appreciation from virtually all the countries in which UNRRA has been operating and to know that UNRRA has made easier the lot of great numbers of people throughout the world. I think it is no exaggeration to say that UNRRA has been the only thing that has stood between many millions of people and starvation.

I want you to know that my associates and I are fully aware of the very difficult situation in China and have sought to ease it as much as lay in our power.

The food situation all over the world is critical, and I have been occupying myself for the past several months in bringing the situation home to the people of this and other countries. It was one of the most important items on the agenda at Atlantic City. I think that we finally have aroused people to an appreciation of the urgent and critical situation which exists and the need for every country to make all possible sacrifices. I am afraid the situation will continue very critical for some time to come, but I am sure that
my successor will do everything in his power to carry on the program which we have outlined and conducted in China.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your unfailing cooperation and encouragement. It has been a source of great satisfaction to me to have been able to work so closely with you and your associates in the Chinese Government. No country has held my interest and sympathy to a greater extent than China, and it is my urgent hope that it will recover rapidly from the terrible ravages of the past many years. I can assure you that whether in official or in private life it will be my desire to be as helpful as possible.

I hope that you will soon be completely restored to good health and that I will have the pleasure of seeing you before long. With kind personal regards, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

Herbert H. Lehman