Dear Governor Lehman,

I read yesterday with the utmost enthusiasm of your appointment as Director of the United States Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Office. There is no office of more importance to all humanity and, as I am firmly convinced, there is no man worthier to be at its head.

All of your work within the Jewish Community and your activities during the last war and your great services to the people of the State of New York and to the whole nation during recent years would seem to have been but a preparation, providential one might almost say, for this great new task. This requires rare qualities of mind and of heart and I am sure that there must be unanimity among the people of the United States that this great mission has been put into faithful hands.

I wish I could help you in one way or the other. There are many problems of present day relief and of rehabilitation for tomorrow with which we are in close contact here.

One of these problems occupying the thoughts and energy of many people at the moment is the fate of several hundred thousand Poles, Jews and non-Jews, now struggling to keep alive in different parts of Russia.

If it is the intention of your office to appoint representatives or committees there are Americans who would be glad to serve and who could serve most efficiently. Among other things I should like to say that the Consul-General of the United States here, Mr. Pinkerton, is most understanding of the relief situation.

The great thing, of course, is to win the war first of all, and that will be no easy task. But now is the time when misery must be assuaged as much as is in any way possible and when plans must be made for the better tomorrow.

We manage to keep well. Kindly remember us to Mrs. Lehman and with all good wishes I am

Sincerely yours,

JLM/11

J.L. Magnes