To the Members of the Board of Directors:

You will have noted in the minutes of the April meeting of the Board the decision to hold at Detroit, Michigan, June 3-6, an Emergency Conference on the Status of the Negro in the War for Freedom.

It is our very sincere hope that as many members of the Board as possible will be able to attend.

In many respects the Negro’s condition steadily worsens as the forces of reaction not only refuse to permit him to help America win the war but also have made it clear that the status of the Negro during and after the war shall not be improved.

The program at Detroit will be devoted wholly to the question of what to do.

If you are unable to attend the entire meeting, we hope you will be able to come to the closing meeting on Sunday afternoon, June 6, in the Detroit Tiger Ball Park which seats 50,000. This will be one of the most dramatic and, we trust, effective demonstrations on behalf of justice to the Negro which has ever been held in America. Among those who have been invited to speak are Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Congressman Will Rogers, Jr., Paul Robeson and Judge William H. Hastie. It is our hope that the very fine Army Band at Fort Custer and a mixed detachment of white and Negro soldiers will be permitted to participate by the War Department as a demonstration that democracy can be practiced.

Special seats in the speaker’s stand will be reserved for members of the Board. Will you be good enough to let us know how many seats we should reserve for you?
Hon. Herbert H. Lehman
American Director, Foreign Relief & Rehabilitation
Washington, D.C.