

Berlin, 23 August 1922

Memorandum

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The department "Cottage Work" has been planned and will open to the public shortly. This department will give opportunity to many of the poorest middle class women to earn some money by handcrafting. It will bring joy to many German Americans to help these women in their most unfortunate circumstances as well as purchasing useful as well as artful items.

I again had opportunity to be in touch with the management of the Red Cross. I am convinced that their work ethics are the highest and they will fulfill all expectations. I have also made contact with the steering committee which is responsible for the children's nourishment. I am convinced that we in America who are making an effort to relieve the great privation in Germany can put our trust in the German Red Cross and its steering committee and its efforts to ensure food for the children. In addition, we trust that the provisions for the middle class, single people and the Institute of Public Welfare in Germany will be properly distributed by the Red Cross.

I cannot help but reiterate the two key elements of the German emergency which the German Red Cross emphasized:

"The following resolution has been accepted at a congress of medical doctors in Hamburg, Germany, under the leadership of Mr. Sanne, the president of the Red Cross in that area: In the German hospitals the doctors find that that there is not only an economic downtrend of the German people but also a downtrend of their health which reminds us of the years of WWI. Such a decline in health leads to psychological problems and will result in another catastrophe. This downward development threatens the sick and the hospitals which experience a great shortage of food, medicine and heating materials. A very quick and satisfying solution of the economic shortages is needed to remedy this situation. We call on all doctors of all countries to support the building up of a world economy to feed all people and with that to reestablish good health for all."

The second resolution comes from the book *Der Haushalt vor und nach dem Krieg (The Household Before and After The War)*: All people who cannot earn money anymore die the secret death of a hero. They hold their backs straight and hide their worries and needs deep inside without mentioning them. Our youth grows up in misery. Elementary and middle school students have been tested as to their possible adaptation to work and it was found that out of 100 students only 69 would be capable to go to work because they were healthy enough. During the 4 ½ years of the blockade of weapons the youth have suffered hunger and for the remainder of the time under the Valuta blockade. I will mention here that in 1913 total consumption amounted to 27%, in 1920 it took 49% and today 100%.

A great percentage of the needed food supply for Germany has to come from foreign countries. It becomes more difficult by day and increases our need to help and support the German population.

It is my hope that we can send part of the needed help to Germany and German-Austrian territory.

G. Henningson

Translated by Margot Hendricks