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TIL PHILIP NOEL-BAKER

117213

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My dear Baker,

It is a long time since I wrote you. I wish you however to see a letter which has been sent from the Foreign Office as an answer to the appeal which the Council sent out for the Armenian refugees. I think the answer is very characteristic. They refuse to respond to the appeal of Dr.Nansen, while the fact is, of course, that it was against Dr.Nansen's advice that the Council, and also the representative of the British Government, unanimously decided to send out such an appeal. Of course, I think that under such circumstances it is perfectly hopeless to work for the League, as it seems as if the members of the Council have really got very little feeling of shame and dignity. The Foreign Minister of Cuba answered my letter, which I wrote him privately according to your advice, and he said that he thought the appropriate thing would not be for the League to give any contribution, but for the American Red Cross! I really think the Council of the League is deteriorating; it was not so bad before. The only Government that has answered favourably is the German. And the Roumanian Government is willing to contribute £ 1000 towards the 300,000 needed. That is hopeful! And the Greek Government that said before that they were willing to pay the expenses of the transport of the refugees from Greece, now say that they are willing to pay 25 o/o of these expenses.

I have not asked them to put this question of the Armenian refugees on the Agenda of the next Council meeting, as I am really disgusted with the whole thing and see no use of a funeral. It is only wasted time for me to go to Geneva.

I am, however, going to America in April, and will then see the American Armenians and discuss with them whether anything can be done worth doing. And then I shall go to the Peace Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, and have said that I will speak on "the Aftermath of the War, especially with reference to refugees", as this subject was suggested to me. I am also asked to speak in some other places, but do not know what to do. Have you any suggestions to make as to what I ought to say over there? I would, of course, be extremely thankful for any advice of the kind. I hope you and you all are happy and prosperous, with my love to Irene and Francis ever yours sincerely,

Fridtjof Nansen.