

TIL MAXIM LITVINOFF.

26th October, 1928.

My dear Mr. Litvinoff,

I understand that the harvest in some parts of Russia, and especially in parts of Ukraine has been bad this year owing to unfortunate meteorological conditions. I have been asked whether I am willing to do my share to assist the inhabitants who, owing to this disaster, are threatened with famine during the winter, and it has been intimated that a sum of about three million dollars should be placed at my disposal for this purpose. I feel that I cannot refuse to do my share if I can be of any use. I therefore venture to ask the Soviet Government of Moscow and the Soviet Government of Ukraine whether such an action of my part would be agreeable to them. I am fully aware that any public propaganda abroad for the purpose of raising money for such a relief action ~~which~~<sup>might</sup> for several reasons be very undesirable, and has therefore to be avoided; but I imagine that if the money is at hand, they could be distributed quietly and would be a valuable help to the suffering peasants of the German communities Menonites and others in Ukraine. For this purpose it would then be proposed to form a "Nansen Familien Hilfe" ~~which~~<sup>with</sup> seat in Berlin, and which could co-operate with your representation.

I would be very grateful, dear Mr. Litvinoff, to hear your views as regards this proposal.

May I also mention another question: I expect that some peasants who will be exposed to great difficulties by the failure of their harvest, may desire to emigrate in order to save their families. Would it in that case be possible to facilitate their emigration by a reduction in the fees for their ~~transpore~~ passports, and also by making it easy for them to obtain their passports and visas in sufficiently short time to allow them to utilize the possibilities of going to overseas countries.

I have to apologize for trespassing upon your valuable time by these questions, but seeing that these people will be in distress I consider it my duty to do what I can in case I may be of any help. Although I am sure that the Soviet Government has already taken the matter up and are going to give their affective assistance I imagine that a help of this kind might not be unwelcome.

Believe me, dear Mr. Litvinoff, with the expression of my highest consideration, I am, yours

*FRITZ JOF NANSSEN*

TIL PHILIP NOEL-BAKER

2.11.1928.

My dear Baker,

I am sorry such a long time has passed since I received your very kind letter of October 8th. I at once spoke to our Government about acceding to the new Act of Arbitration, and they thought it was a very good idea, and promised that they would look into it and see what could be done. I do not know, however, whether anything has been done yet, and will speak to them again about it. I think it would be very well if it could be done.

I am very much interested in what you say about Ramsay MacDonald. A fundamental change in the international politics of Europe is certainly most desirable; it does not look very hopeful just now.

Ever yours very sincerely,

*Fridtjof Nansen.*