

TIL VLADIMIR ULJANOVITSJ LENIN.

[UD. P2/6/4/19].

F. N. → Mr. Nicolai (sic!) Lenin,
Paris 17. april 1919.

mottatt i Kina. 19. 4. og foreslått sendt til Sovjet
på forskjellige veier. Telegrammet refererer
(N. 5? eller rettene Hoovers i N. o man) telegram
til de 4 store av 3 april 1919

Svar fra amerik. min. Tjenestemann gjennom forskjellige
kanaler ca. 10-12. mai 1919.

Dette vil jeg sette i Komm. Dvs. omtale
hoslv. og Koll. brevets innvirk. og omstendig-
hetene omkring det. O

Einar Steimoeggen : bygdehistorikeren for
~~År.~~ Alvdal.

TELEGRAM TIL UTENRIKSDEPARTEMENTET.

Avskrift av telegram fra Paris
optat i Kristiania 19/4-1919 kl.2o.

Ministre Affaires Etrangères

Kristiania.

Numero

Dr Nansen asks me transmit following telegram which he would be thankful that you would send by quickest and safest route to destination citation Mr. Nicolay Lenin President of the Russian Soviet Government Moscow Sir on April third I sent the following letter to president Wilson Clemenceau Lloyd George and Orlando. The present food situation in Russia where hundreds of thousand of people are dying monthly from sheer starvation and disease is one of the problems now uppermost in all mens minds as it appears that no solution of this food and disease question has so far been reached in any direction I would like to make a suggestion from a neutral point of view for the alleviation of this gigantic misery on purely humanitarian grounds it would appear to me possible to organize a purely humanitarian commission for the provisioning of Russia the food-stuffs and medical supplies to be paid for perhaps to some considerable extent by Russia itself the justice of distribution to be guaranteed by such a commission the membership of the commission to be comprised of Norwegian Swedish and possibly Dutch Danish and Swiss nationalities it does not appear that the existing authorities in Russia would refuse the intervention of such a commission of wholly non political order devoted solely to the humanitarian purpose of saving life if thus organized upon the lines of the Belgian Relief Commission it would raise no question of political recognition or negotiations between the allies with the existing authorities in Russia I recognize keenly the large political issues involved and I would be glad to know under what conditions you would approve such an enterprise and whether such commission could look for actual support in finance shipping and food and medical supplies from your Government believe me Sir yours most respectfully signed Fridthjof Nansen Today April seventeenth I have received the following answer Dear Sir The misery and suffering in Russia described in your letter of April 3rd appeals to the sympathies of all peoples it is shocking to humanity that millions of men

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women and children lack the food and the necessities which make life endurable. The Governments and peoples whom we represent would be glad to cooperate without thought of political, military or financial advantage, in any proposal which would relieve this situation in Russia. It seems to us that such a Commission as you propose would offer a practical means of achieving the beneficent results you have in view, and could not, either in its conception or its operation, be considered as having any other aim than the "humanitarian purpose of saving life". There are great difficulties to be overcome, political difficulties, owing to the existing situation in Russia, and difficulties of supply and transport. But if the existing local governments of Russia are as willing as the governments and peoples whom we represent to see succor and relief given to the stricken peoples of Russia no political obstacle will remain. There will remain, however, the difficulties of supply, finance and transport which we have mentioned, and also the problem of distribution in Russia itself. The problem of supply we can ourselves hope to solve, in connection with the advice and cooperation of such a Commission as you propose. The problem of finance would seem to us to fall upon the Russian authorities. The problem of transport of supplies to Russia we can hope to meet with the assistance of your own and other Neutral Governments whose interest should be as great as our own and whose losses have been far less. The problems of transport in Russia and of distribution can be solved only by the people of Russia themselves, with the assistance, advice and supervision of your Commission. Subject to such supervision, the problem of distribution should be solely under the control of the people of Russia themselves. The people in each locality should be given, as under the regime of the Belgian Relief Commission, the fullest opportunity to advise your Commission upon the methods and the personnel by which their community is to be relieved. In no other circumstances could it be believed that the purpose of this Relief was humanitarian, and not political, under no other conditions could it be certain that the hungry would be fed. That such a course would involve cessation of all hostilities within definitive lines in the territory of Russia is obvious. And the cessation of hostilities would, necessarily, involve a complete suspension of the transfer of troops and military material of all sorts to and within Russian territory. Indeed, relief to Russia which did not mean a return to a state of peace would be

futile and would be impossible to consider under such conditions as we have outlined, we believe that your plan could be successfully carried into effect, and we should be prepared to give it our full support. V. E. Orlando, D. Lloyd George, Woodrow Wilson, G. Clemenceau". I would be glad to hear from you in this matter at your earliest convenience. I may add that the neutral organization which I propose offers its services in the cause without any remuneration whatever but of course its expenditure in the purchase and transportation of supplies must be met by the Soviet Government. Believe me, Sir, yours most respectfully, Fridtjof Nansen Hotel-Continental, Paris, citation finished.

Ministre Norvège.

Herbert Hoover skriver bl.a. i "The Memoirs of H. H.", bd. I. "Years of Adventure" 1874-1920, (New York 1951) s. 413-418 om dette initiativ, at det var hans, og at både brunt til de 4 søre og og en anden fra dem var konsipient ("drafted") av ham.