December 13, 1922

Mr. Henry Ford,
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Mr. Ford:

Nothing in the world but the knowledge that I have of your interest in the peace of the world would lead me to trouble you with this letter.

I want you to have a talk with a friend of mine, a Miss Frances Wilson who has been with the League of Nations since its start in Geneva, and who knows what they are doing there.

Miss Wilson will tell you - and I am convinced she is right, from what I myself know - that in spite of all the handicaps of the League, in spite of the unfriendly attitude of America - the nation mostimportant to the success of any world re-organization in the interests of peace - they have really developed the thing that we may call a neutral mind. That is, here are three hundred people who have worked together for some three years, handling the most delicate and difficult of international problems; and they have done their work with an eye single to a righteous, peaceful settlement.

As you know, they have succeeded in making that settlement in several very difficult cases.

Now, dear Mr. Ford, if this can be done in a small way, it can be done in a large way. If you can build 20 Ford cars, you can build 20,000 or 20,000,000.

But this work of settling the difficulties of nations - difficulties which run back into the dark ages, many of them, must rest on a basis of fact, if they are to be respected. Mutual agreement and understanding, based on knowledge of the actual conditions in a particular case, is the only way in which these troubles can be adjusted. Now, this basis of fact can only be obtained from the documents in the case - printed records, manuscript records, books. And that means a library.

The good work that has been done already in Geneva by the League of Nations would, in my judgment, have been impossible

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if it had not been that League had the beginnings of a great international storehouse of knowledge. That it has these beginnings is due very largely to my friend, Miss Wilson.

The future usefulness of the League is going to depend upon the extension of this library. But that means money, dear Mr. Ford; and, frankly, Miss Wilson wants to present to you her case, hoping that you may see here a practical, fundamental way of [illegible]. Will you see her? You ought to know from first hand, from the people that have been working in Geneva what has been done. You could not hear from a better source than Miss Wilson, so I beg of you to see her.

Of course I hope the library project will interest you; but even if it does not, I want you to know that there is actually being created in Geneva a neutral, international mind - a place where nations can take their troubles and be free from intrigue, greed, where the one aim is to settle them and settle them right.

Please tell Miss Wilson that she may go to you, and believe me, always

Faithfully yours,

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