

CUS 417/51.14

SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

(INITIATED BY THE FIGHT THE FAMINE COUNCIL).

OBJECT: TO FEED THE CHILDREN IN THE FAMINE AREAS OF EUROPE AND ASIA MINOR.

No Political or Sectarian Bias.

The Fund to be distributed through—Friends' Emergency Committee; War Victims Relief Committee; Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund; Russian Babies Relief Fund; Fund to Aid Swiss Relief for Starving Children.

Hon. Sec.: Mrs. C. R. BUXTON.

Telephone: HOLBORN 2494.

Telegrams: 2494 Holborn, London.

ROOM 341.

329 HIGH HOLBORN,

LONDON, W.C. 1.

July 26

Dear Sir William Osler,

I am enclosing a short report I compiled about Dr. Munro's work in Vienna. He is still there, or in Budapest.

I feel very much distressed about the whole business, because after having got him out there, we have made it impossible for him to achieve ~~enough~~ any substantial improvement in the condition of the hospitals by leaving him without supplies. The condition of the hospitals is terrible, & in the midst of this welter of misery nothing is done.

He has organised a committee which is a model of excellent co-ordination, representing British, American, & Austrian work for relief, both public & private. This C^o was formed to distribute relief — only it has nothing to distribute. Mr. Butler, the head of the British Mission, recently came to London for a short time, & asked us to get a "move on" — & send out relief, & particularly to get wide publicity at once for the

enclosed appeal which he himself had signed. He also
authorised us to state that the accounts of Dr. Munro as to
the state of affairs were not in the least exaggerated.

But I feel we are now in a parlous position. By dint of
great exertions we arranged in April (I forget the exact date &
am writing from home where I have no records) for £1000 worth of
goods to be sent from Switzerland to Vienna. I borrowed this
money on my own responsibility but was afterwards able to recover it.
These things only arrived in Vienna about a fortnight ago!-

Shortly after arranging for this, we arranged
for 15 tons of relief to be sent by a government food train
from Basle. This consignment has never arrived. It cost
about £1500. We can't trace it, but it is probably "somewhere
in France".

The Friends Emergency C^o sent out in June
100 tons of relief via Rotterdam. This has not arrived in
Vienna yet.

We have also allowed Dr. Munro to buy
about £1000 worth of goods in Trieste & elsewhere.

As Dr. Munro truly says, the need is in any case beyond
private effort. But how can he expect us to be able to get the
50 trucks of War Office supplies for which he asks??-

It might perhaps help if you could send the
enclosed appeal to the Times with a covering letter. They could
scarcely refuse to publish it if you sent it, & it might bring in some
money.

I feel there are also other things we could do if only we
had the staff to do them. But Vienna is only one small part of the
famine area. We are overwhelmed with work in other directions, &
have neither got volunteers enough, nor the money to pay for workers.
At this juncture also I am obliged to go away for a fortnight on
private business. Perhaps the best thing might be to do now what I

now we should have been doing three months ago - pay some young & therefore more forcible doctor, the
[whether in view of money to pay him or not] to act as one of our trustees & to organise a medical c^o -
on how to raise funds & get supplies (public or private) for Dr. Munro's C^o in Vienna.
Yours sincerely
E. Langford Webb.