

Ivy L. Lee and Associates
111 Broadway
New York

Memorandum

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

February 3, 1926.

Dear Mr. DeBost:

I enclose herewith copy of a memorandum I thought of sending to you and perhaps to some others right after the meeting when the Russian question came up. I decided, however, that it would be hardly worth while to agitate the subject.

What is in my mind very strongly is this: That the Chamber of Commerce of New York ought to take a constructive position with reference to Russia. Some day Russia has got to come back into the family of nations, and we ought to try to help her get back rather than to force a great nation like Russia to come back on her knees and in sackcloth and ashes. That isn't practical. Furthermore, the United States can not indefinitely assume an attitude toward Russia different from that of all the other great nations. In addition, the trade of Russia is of great importance to this country.

All these factors make me feel that the situation ought to be followed with great care with the idea of doing something which is both consistent with the policies of the Chamber and at the same time helpful to progress.

I would be very glad, indeed, to discuss this subject with you, but if we did discuss it my main suggestion would be that the Chamber appoint a committee to make a special study of the Russian Situation - possibly sending one or two men to Russia to examine the situation on the ground - and that the Chamber should take such other measures as will enable it to be in the foreground in promoting that which ought to be brought about at the earliest possible moment; namely, admission of Russia once more to the family of nations.

My interest in this is solely personal and because I believe the subject is one of importance to this country.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) IVY L. LEE

Mr. William L. DeBost,
Chairman, Executive Committee,
New York Chamber of Commerce
65 Liberty Street, New York City