

Ivy L. Lee and Associates
111 Broadway
New York

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Memorandum

February 26, 1926.

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

I really appreciate very much your note of the 25th. I am sure there is no difference of opinion between us as to the moral aspects of this whole matter, but I am afraid if it is to be dealt with purely on a plane of higher morality, we are not going to get very far. A Russian is going to remain a Russian and I do not believe we are going to change very much any of the professions of the Russian Government.

What we are all after is to get Russia to restore the property she owes to other nationals, or to make restitution for property she has seized. Next to that we want to get Russia to give such assurances and guarantees of the future as will restore the Russian people to more normal commercial relations with the rest of the world.

That is a very practical question and cannot be solved merely by our disapproving of the professions and theories of the Russian Government. With what Russia does inside of Russia, we have little to do. What really concerns us is what Russia does outside of Russia, or does with property which belongs to people outside of Russia.

Just so long as Russia continues in her present anomalous relationship with so many of the nations, the commerce of the world is disjointed, and the ship of Trade is listing.

I hope sometime you and I can get together personally and talk this over because I am sure we are not far apart at all in our purposes. The real reason I have started this thing is because I believe there is a chance for the Chamber of Commerce to do a great constructive piece of work in connection with this matter, a piece of work which I do not see in process of being done by any other agency which starts from the same point of view.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) IVY L. LEE

Darwin P. Kingsley, Esq.,
346 Broadway,
New York City.

P. S. I have had a letter from Mr. John B. Trevor protesting against my views and I am venturing to enclose a copy of a letter I am writing him. I.L.L.

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February 26, 1926.

Dear Mr. Trevor:

I appreciate very much your kindness in writing me as you have done February 25. I wish that we could get together and talk this matter over because I do not believe we are as far apart as you apparently think we are. As I have said in all my communications, I do not assume to know the answer to the Russian riddle. Men like General Haskell and others who really do know something about it are quite doubtful as to the advisability of the present recognition of Russia. I have no decided views on the subject. The only view that I do have decidedly is that Russia is a very great country with a great people and that we have got to deal with her as she is.

Of course nothing could be more repugnant to me than to affiliate myself with any movement which would afford a Communist or Socialist idea to any degree. I assume it is hardly necessary for me to say that. Indeed, I am not affiliating myself with a movement. If I had wanted to do that I would have gone to some of the more aggressive people on this subject and tried to work with them. Instead of that I am taking this thing up on the inside, and not publicly, with what I feel is the most conservative and influential body of sound business men in the United States. I would not have the Chamber of Commerce do anything whatsoever that is not in accord with the soundest principles of business. If I wanted the matter dealt with in some other way, I certainly would not go to the Chamber of Commerce with it.

I realize that anything that might seem like friendliness to the Soviet Government represents a very unpopular view with a body of men like the members of the Chamber of Commerce.

I have heard a good many views expressed on this subject and many of them differ. What I would like to feel is that through the Chamber of Commerce the business men of America might learn what the facts are and thus proceed constructively. For example, I have heard many statements that the French and English Governments regretted the action they had taken regarding the Soviet Government. I am trying to find the real facts on that subject. I confess I do not know, but if any body of men in this country is equipped to ascertain the facts concerning the whole problem, and to test those facts thoroughly, I think it is the Chamber of Commerce of New York.

I am venturing to send you a copy of a letter I am writing to Mr. Darwin P. Kingsley. It would give me great pleasure to discuss this subject with you personally. It is a subject about which I hesitate to dogmatize in any way. It is too big for anyone really to take in. But as I wrote you the other day, it certainly presents a challenge to thought and it seems to me that challenge ought to be accepted by the Chamber of Commerce of New York.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) IVY L. LEE.

John B. Trevor, Esq.,
11 East Ninety-first Street,
New York City.